Promoting Utilization of EMR Strategies to Streamline Communication Across Perioperative Teams
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Background: Since implementation of the EPIC electronic medical record (EMR) at our institution, coordination of care communication and information for day of service, such as hemostasis and endocrine plans, has occurred inconsistently inside and outside the EMR leading to overlooked information and errors with coordination of appropriate teams for safe anesthesia care, cancellations or delays to patient procedures as well as decreased patient, family, and perioperative team satisfaction.

Objectives of Project: Development and utilization of a consistent, central location utilizing EMR tools (FYI Flag and designated status board) for communication of anesthesia care coordination and patient care plans.

Process of Implementation: A perianesthesia nurse practitioner:
   a. Collaborated with the EPIC OpTime IT builders creating a patient specific FYI Flag in the EMR called "Anesthesia Care Planning and Special Needs" and enhancing an already utilized Status Board accessible across all perioperative teams.
   b. Gathered 4 months of qualitative data from daily huddle emails identifying incidents of miscommunication between teams and missed coordination of care that led to delays, cancellations, and/or dissatisfaction reinforcing need for consistent communication practice change.
   c. Gathered baseline knowledge regarding FYI flags and status boards and conducted educational presentations to all perioperative teams regarding the purpose, utilization, anesthesia care planning information, and accessibility of the FYI flag and status board.
   d. Continued gathering of qualitative huddle data and post implementation surveys will provide outcomes and opportunities for enhanced improvement of this new communication practice across perioperative teams.

Statement of Successful Practice: Utilizing a designated FYI flag and Status Board in EPIC listing all patients with the FYI Flag provides consistent, centralized communication for peri-operative patient care thereby decreasing delays in patient care, patient safety concerns, and dissatisfaction for patients, families, perioperative, and anesthesia team members.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Inconsistent communication regarding patient care planning can result in missed coordination of appropriate teams for anesthesia safety causing cancellations or delays to patient procedures, and decreased patient, family, and team satisfaction. Utilization of designated communication tools in the EMR improves efficiency, effectiveness, and safety of patient care for patients undergoing procedures with anesthesia.