

## **LEAN Into Efficiency**

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**Abstract Background Information:** Supply distribution and location planning often lacks input from frontline clinical staff. In a fast-paced Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) at a large academic medical center, nursing and nursing support staff recognized an opportunity to improve efficiency and decrease cost by doing a full assessment of the supply par, removing infrequently used items, decreasing the number of moderately used items and organizing supplies in an intuitive way that made sense for the team.

**Objectives of Project:** As the healthcare landscape is continually evolving to stay on the cutting edge of research and technology, we find ourselves frequently adding new items to par to provide the safest and most efficient care to our patients. However, this adds to confusion of supply location, oversupply and ordering issues. What is infrequently assessed is items are no longer used as frequently to ensure that we are reducing waste and cost, and improving organization, efficiency and clutter on supply carts. The goal of this multidisciplinary effort is to improve efficiency, reduce waste and cost by assessing all items on par and ensuring that it accurately reflects the current needs of our patients.

**Process of Implementation:** Utilizing the LEAN methodology, the PACU RNs and nursing support team collaborated with the supply chain team to identify which supplies are frequently, moderately, and rarely used. They then determined what items’ par levels should be decreased, removed from par and location of most frequently used items.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** In collaboration with our supply chain partners, we were able to remove 23 items from our par. We also assessed the total par replenishment cost pre-implementation compared to the cost post-implementation. This assessment indicated a 27% reduction in our par replenishment costs. We relocated 90% of supplies to reflect frequently used items at eye level. Moderately used items immediately above and below and infrequently used items on the lowest shelves.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** Consistent evaluation of patient care needs and improvements in efficiency are essential for sustainability and growth in healthcare delivery. By utilizing a Lean framework and eliminating muda – or waste – and ensuring input from the frontline team, a process will become more efficient, more sustainable and more productive.