

## **Pre-Operative Throughput Efficiency**

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**Abstract Background Information:** In July 2023, Riddle Hospital's surgical services transitioned to a new tower, merging three preoperative departments. This transition led to a decrease in first case on time start (FCOTS) times, an increase in same-day cancellations and delays due to medical clearances. Consequently, two projects were initiated to enhance the pre-op unit's throughput: the Pre-Op Throughput Efficiency project by Amy Yingling, RN, BSN, PCCN, and the FCOTs project by Jacqueline Kerstetter, RN, BSN, CNOR.

**Objectives of Project:** In May 2024, the Pre-Op Throughput Efficiency project initiatives were implemented. These included:

1. assigning an unassigned pre-op charge nurse,
2. the pre-op charge nurse reviews add-on patient charts by 7:30 AM, contacting physicians for patient clearance, notifying surgeons if patients required any labs or tests, informing the floor RN of new orders, and meeting with the Anesthesia MD running the surgical board each morning at 8:00 AM to review any concerns.
3. the pre-operative department took over pre-operative phone calls from the non-clinical department to confirm expected arrival times the next day.

**Process of Implementation:** A quick review revealed that various charge nurses were not consistently following these initiatives or communicating effectively with providers. Consequently, in June a permanent pre-op charge nurse was appointed. In July 2024, the OR initiated the FCOTs project. The initiatives included:

1. a scheduled pre-operative huddle requiring the circulating RN, the CRNA, and the pre-operative RN to be present at the patient's bedside ten minutes before scheduled start time;
2. pre-op RN would call into the OR room if team was incomplete, and;
3. if patients did not arrive within 15 minutes of their scheduled arrival time, the pre-op charge nurse would call the patient.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** The Pre-Op Throughput Efficiency initiatives have led to a decrease in same-day cancellations and increased OR time efficiency. Furthermore, the FCOTs project saw an improvement in start times, rising from 89% to 92% between July and September and a \$62,000 savings from August through September.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** The two projects have proven to advance PreOp nurses as a team member with multidisciplinary teams, including PreOp, OR, and Anesthesia and accented the efficient use for preparation for the pre-operative huddle.