

Using the Hovermat in Perioperative Patients

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Abstract Background Information: Patients coming to the hospital for a surgical procedure start on a cart and will eventually be transferred onto a hospital bed when admitted here at East Hospital. To make the transition easier, the staff realized there was a need for education and a change in the process to assist in safe patient transfer for the patient as well as the staff, the Unit Leadership Council came together to discuss how to make this happen.

Objectives of Project: Create a safe transfer for the patient by ensuring that we had the appropriate transfer devices available for patients coming out of the operating room. When the patient was transferred onto the hospital bed, the PACU staff and the floor staff would have the hovermat available to minimize strain on the caregivers, while providing the patient with a smoother transition.

Process of Implementation: The Unit Leadership Council worked on ensuring that all patients that they knew were being admitted received a hovermat on the back of the cart. Then a bright green, laminated sign was displayed on the cart to signify the patient was being admitted. Education was provided to the operating room team to place the hovermat on the cart so that when the patient was transferred from the OR bed, the hovermat would be available to the PACU nurses. Auditing began and reeducation was provided to the staff.

Statement of Successful Practice: Hovermats are being placed on patient carts prior to them coming out of the OR, allowing the PACU nurses to transport the patients to the floor and utilize the hovermat for a safe transfer for the patient and the staff.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: The Perianesthesia staff saw a problem and were able to have autonomy to create a solution that worked and allowed them to feel empowered to help create more change on the unit and take pride in their work.