



Successful Inter-collaborative Initiative: A Patient-Centered Project

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Background

There were ongoing challenges of postanesthesia care unit (PACU) urology surgery patients who had to have the oncology administration of intravesical chemotherapy Gemcitabine (Gemzar) after being admitted to the PACU upon awakening after anesthesia. Patients experienced increased pain requiring excessive opioid doses, ultimately increasing PACU length of stay (LOS) by 3-4 hours. Gemcitabine has been only administered under strict guidelines in PACU.

In addition, both our patients and their families' expressed frustration with having to stay in the PACU for such a long time.

Aims of the Project

- The project's first aim was to improve patient and family satisfaction.
- The project's second aim was to establish the best environment for the patient's Gemcitabine chemotherapy installation, which streamlines the workflow and decreases the length of stay in the PACU.

Plan of the Project

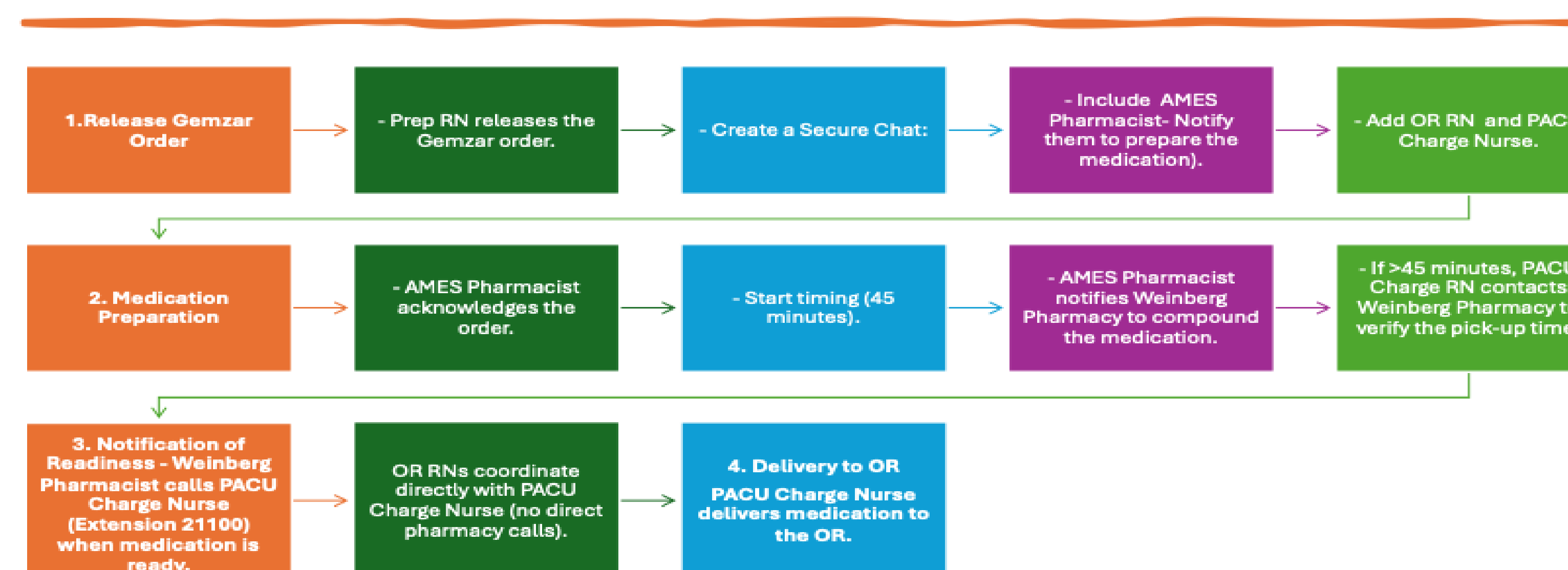
1) Invite interdisciplinary stakeholders to identify their perspectives and insights on Gemcitabine key practice issues that are causing increased pain with the PACU patients extending their LOS;

2) Develop a postanesthesia oncology nursing patient-centered initiative that focuses on:

Reduction of postoperative pain;
Timely reuniting families with patients,
Reduction of PACU LOS, and
Ultimately promoting interprofessional collaboration in the perioperative environment of care.

Streamlined Workflow Process

GEMZAR MEDICATION WORKFLOW



Process of Implementation

- 1)Revise Gemcitabine (Gemzar) Medication Workflow to begin in the surgeon's office/clinic for Gemcitabine order in EPIC; 2) Prep RN Responsibilities:
 - Release Gemzar order and to Create a secure chat including AMES Pharmacist, OR RN, and PACU Charge Nurse.
- 3)Medication Pharmacy Preparation
Timing: AMES pharmacist to prepare medication in
 - 30-45 minutes. AMES pharmacist to notify Weinberg Pharmacy for compounding (If compounding is over 45 minutes, PACU Charge RN will follow up with Weinberg Pharmacy)

New Process -Notification and Communication:

Pharmacist to contact PACU Charge Nurse by phone when medication is ready. Then, PACU Charge RN delivers Gemcitabine medication to the OR. OR RNs to coordinate with PACU.

Charge Nurse, avoiding direct calls to the pharmacy. Patient receives oncology medication under anesthesia in the OR. When surgery is completed, patient transported to PACU to recover. We request patients and families consent to conduct a standard post-operative follow-up call the day after surgery to assess their recovery and overall PACU experience.

Successful Practice Data Outcomes

Key Metrics Monitored:

- PACU Length of Stay (LOS):

Reduced from 180 to under 90 minutes for 72 urology patients over three months. EHR data showed quicker recovery and discharge readiness.

- Patient Satisfaction & Pain Management:

Higher patient satisfaction is associated with shorter stays and improved comfort. Reduced opioid use and enhanced pain control were reported.

- Workflow Efficiency:

Fewer OR holds and perioperative delays indicate stronger coordination between surgery, nursing, and pharmacy teams.

Statement of Successful Practice

Culture change occurred by ordering Gemcitabine earlier; administering medication intraoperatively ordering; successfully managing PACU patients' pain and comfort using the nursing observational survey; positive patient and family experiences from post-operative follow up calls; and successful inter-collaborative chemotherapy administration project that focused on the best location to administer the chemotherapy.

Lessons Learned

Key lessons included the power of interdisciplinary collaboration and the willingness of team members to prioritize patient-centered care. Engaging stakeholders early, maintaining transparent communication, and focusing on shared goals facilitated the initiative's success with minimal resistance.

Implications for Future Research

Future research should focus on exploring patient safety strategies that promote interdisciplinary collaborative projects that break down communication barriers .

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