

Improving Perioperative Glycemic Control Compliance Through ERAS Committee Interprofessional Collaboration

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Abstract Background Information: Perioperative glucose monitoring, a component of Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) is essential to surgical site infection (SSI) prevention and overall patient safety. Elevated perioperative glucose levels have been shown to increase postoperative complications, even among non-diabetic patients. In September 2024, compliance for perioperative point-of-care testing (POCT) glucose checks across our admit to surgery (inpatient) patients was only 30%. This gap was identified through regional quality data review and chart audits conducted by the perioperative ERAS Committee. To address this issue, a standardized process was needed to ensure timely identification of surgical patients requiring perioperative glucose monitoring and prompt ordering by providers.

Objectives of Project: The primary objective of this project was to improve compliance with perioperative POCT glucose monitoring from 30% to 50% or higher through the implementation of a structured, nurse-driven workflow for patient identification, order verification, and communication with anesthesia and surgical teams.

Process of Implementation: An interprofessional team composed of the perioperative educator, chart review nurse, anesthesia leadership, and surgical leadership developed a local workflow for to improve compliance of POCT glucose monitoring. The Chart Review RN reviewed daily surgical schedules to identify all patients requiring POCT glucose checks. If glucose orders were missing, a standardized visual reminder sticker was placed on the patient's chart to alert the provider on the day of surgery. Compliance was monitored daily and documented in the SSI Quality Tracker. Data were reviewed weekly by the perioperative educator, and results were shared with anesthesia and nursing leadership to sustain awareness and accountability. This process was adopted and implemented across all San Bernardino County perioperative areas from October 2024 through February 2025.

Statement of Successful Practice: Following implementation, compliance with perioperative POCT glucose monitoring increased from 30% to 84%, surpassing the project goal of 50%. Consistent monitoring and real-time feedback strengthened interdepartmental communication and improved adherence to regional SSI prevention standards.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: This initiative demonstrates the critical role of perioperative nurses in advancing evidence-based quality measures through proactive chart review, interdisciplinary collaboration, and process standardization. Empowering nurses to lead compliance monitoring supports improved surgical outcomes and reinforces nursing's impact on patient safety and SSI prevention.