**The Implementation of Care Companion:**
**A Task Based System to Prepare Patients for Surgery**

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**Abstract Background Information:** Patient education prior to the day of surgery is paramount to success. The authors recognized the lack of standardized preparation for surgical patients. Prior to implementation, patients were given fragmented education (paper, electronic, or lack there of) on how to prepare for the day of surgery. This led to poor patient experience, delays on the day of surgery, and poor clinical optimization.

**Objectives of Project:** The objective of this project was to design a task-based manager for patients, in partnership with PennChart (Penn Medicine's electronic health record). This would deliver time based tasked directly to the patient's portal regarding medication management, enhanced recovery after surgery protocol, skin prep, and review of day of surgery expectations. This gave patients a one stop shop to better prepare for surgery and allow the end user clinicians to monitor progress. The pilot population was started with the orthopedic specialty.

**Process of Implementation:** The authors partnered with EPIC analysts and provider leadership within the orthopedic office to design the content based on existing documentation. The team worked together for several months to design the content and timelines for the task based software and were able to have a successful go live in June 2025.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** Patients reported positive experiences when utilizing the Care Companion software and felt that they were better prepared for surgery. Notable decline in day of surgery cancellations due to poor optimization.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** The eventual goal would be that all service lines will utilize Care Companion to prepare patients for surgery.