

Decreasing Day of Surgery Cancellations through Pre-Anesthesia Testing Clinic

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Abstract Background Information: Day of surgery cancellations not only has a negative effect on OR efficiency and financially, it leads to decreased patient satisfaction as well. Ensuring patients are optimized medically for surgery and have the pre-operative education is crucial in decreasing day of surgery cancellations. Day of surgery cancellation rates for academic health centers range from 6.3% to 12.9%. As an academic health center that has a mission to serve a vulnerable population, it is crucial to maintain a low day of surgery cancellation rate to increase access to our patients.

Objectives of Project: Decrease day of surgery cancellations to increase OR efficiency.

Process of Implementation: All scheduled (elective and urgent) OR cases are added to PAT clinic status board through electronic medical record for a telephone triage call to be completed. Triage questions are based on type of anesthesia. Following an anesthesia developed protocol, if a Nurse Practitioner visit is needed, one is scheduled. During call or NP visit, pre-operative medication instructions are given per anesthesia protocol. Standardized pre-operative instructions are also given at PAT visit, not in surgical clinic. All day of surgery cancellations are reviewed at surgical quality committee. Any opportunities from a Pre-Anesthesia Testing Clinic standpoint are reviewed with individual staff and then with as a group at the staff meetings.

Statement of Successful Practice: For 2025, the day of surgery cancellation rate is 5.7%, which is lower than the national average and the lowest rate our hospital has ever experienced.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: All patients, despite their medical history and/or anesthesia type would benefit from being triaged and educated by the pre-anesthesia/pre-admission testing clinic to help lower day of surgery cancellation rates.