

Pediatric Perioperative Risk Assessment Coordination Clinic

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Abstract Background Information: In 2022, our medical director of children's anesthesia developed the perioperative risk assessment coordination clinic. All patients scheduled for surgery are required to undergo a formal intake process that includes phone interviews and surveys. The intake process allows us to categorize surgical and patient complexity. Based on categorization, guidelines for preoperative laboratory and diagnostic testing before surgery are utilized.

Objectives of Project:

1. Increase the Pre-Admission testing volume to ensure patients are appropriately evaluated prior to surgery.
2. Decrease same day surgery cancellations by improving preoperative readiness and communication.
3. Enhance overall patient flow for surgical services to promote efficiency, reduce delays, and improve the patient experience.

Process of Implementation: Clear guidelines were developed to standardize workflows for pre-admission testing to ensure all preoperative requirements are completed before the day of surgery. Designated members of anesthesia team oversee and evaluate patient chart reviews and coordinate with PAT to schedule in person or telephone appointments as needed. Mechanisms such as videotaped guidelines and brochures were updated to provide appropriate education to patients and families and reinforce important guidelines such as NPO instructions and preoperative medication administration.

Statement of Successful Practice: Successful implementation of this project has resulted in a more efficient and coordinated surgical process. Calendar year 2023-2024 our PAT volume increased by 80%. We also saw a 10.5% reduction in same day surgical cancellations and a 13.3% reduction in same day surgery GI case cancellations.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: By increasing PAT volume and decreasing same day surgery cancellations, these outcomes highlight the critical contribution of peri-anesthesia nurses in enhancing patient care quality, reducing delays, and promoting evidence based, patient centered care.