

Perianesthesia Mobile Nurse Project

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Abstract Background Information: At a busy level 1 trauma center, inpatient optimization for surgery is essential to improve OR efficiency, patient safety, and prevent delays/last-minute cancellations. Patients often arrived in the pre-operative holding area, a 3-bed unit, with incomplete preop orders, lack of medical clearance, and/or incomplete/missing consent forms. With limited space, efficiency and readiness for surgery is essential prior to arrival. With the increasing number of high acuity patients originating from non-surgical units and growing number of new inpatient nurses, the perianesthesia team developed an innovative process for optimizing staff time and resources.

Objectives of Project: The mobile nurse project aimed to improve collaboration between inpatient units and the OR, reduce delays in the OR, improve compliance with preoperative SSI prevention task, and ensure patient readiness and optimization prior to surgery. Lack of patient optimization is a significant patient safety risk.

Process of Implementation: The Mobile Nurses consist of perianesthesia nurses and nursing assistants. Mobile nurses are trained in the preop perianesthesia unit and utilize the same standards for in-patients that were developed for prehospital assessment nurses. The nurse performs a full assessment of the patient, reviews preoperative orders and results, initiates communication with providers about abnormal findings, provides education to patients about the surgical process and infection prevention practices, and communicates with the OR about potential delays. This allows the OR to modify the schedule/plan to accommodate the great number of patients in the most efficient manner. The NA initiates SSI prevention measures in the privacy of the patient's room and ensures compliance with these interventions.

Statement of Successful Practice: The mobile nurse project has reduced the time needed in the holding room prior to surgery, last minute cancellations for patients not optimized for surgery, identifies abnormal findings which require further medical clearance from specialized teams, and improved compliance with SSI prevention bundle.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: The production pressure for all perianesthesia departments requires the collaboration and efficiency of all team members. This project has developed a system for improved patient preparedness, identifies patient safety issues, and optimizes the use of all perioperative staff members from the inpatient staff nurses to perianesthesia staff.