

# One Dose Ahead: PeriAnesthesia and Pharmacy Collaboration

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## Background

- Delays across the perioperative continuum can compromise throughput, affect safety and the patient experience, and increase costs.<sup>1</sup>
- The Collaborative Practice Model provides a structured framework for identifying and addressing multidisciplinary challenges.<sup>2</sup>

## Problem & Objective

### Problem:

- Increase in pharmacy-related delays affecting OR readiness
- Increase in reported medication issues, including out of stock, verification, and delivery delays

### Objective:

- To improve medication access and reduce nursing-pharmacy related delays across the perioperative continuum

## Plan

- Formed an interdisciplinary committee with a defined charter
- Reviewed safety event reporting, delay entries, and staff feedback
- Completed PDSA cycles to address identified issues
- Implemented and sustained workflow improvements

## Team



- Frontline Nurses
- PeriAnesthesia leadership
- Unit-based Pharmacy technician
- Director of Pharmacy Operations
- Director of Outpatient Pharmacy

## Highlights



- Adjusted par levels to reduce out of stock events
- Added needed medication to Omnicell to reduce delivery delays
- Lowered refill thresholds for selected medication to improve availability
- Set expectation for discharge medication delivery

- Improved communication with inpatient and outpatient Pharmacy through Secure Chat
- Standardized medication request workflows to improve coordination across phases of care.
- Added alphabetical medication bins to improve medication visibility.
- Reviewed and refined downtime ordering process.

- Removed select medications from the override list to improve patient safety
- Improved workflows to reduce therapeutic duplication
- Advocated for and achieved a one-hour extension in outpatient pharmacy hours
- Supported multi-dose eye drop initiative to reduce waste

## Team Feedback



This committee strengthened the partnership between nursing and pharmacy, driving safer care, greater efficiency, and better patient outcomes."  
-Dr. Shah PharmD



"Adding Secure Chat has really improved communication with outpatient pharmacy and helped reduced delays related to discharge prescriptions."  
- Kirstie J. RN



"I've appreciated the feedback given to pharmacy about par levels and medications being more available. This has cut down on time and frustration within the nursing team."  
-Noelle I. RN

## Outcomes

- FY2026 YTD showed a **13.1%** reduction in preoperative pharmacy related delays.
- Nurse-reported pharmacy issues decreased by **65.5%** from 2023 to 2025.

## Implications

- Interdisciplinary collaboration created a structured process to address nursing-pharmacy related delays.
- Shared ownership and consistent follow up led to practical workflow improvements.
- This low cost, adaptable committee model improved perioperative efficiency and can be applied to other interdepartmental challenges.

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## References



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