

From Outpatients to ALL Patients: APRN Expansion in PAT Reduces Same Day Cancellations

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Background

- **Same-day surgical cancellations:**
 - Decrease patient satisfaction
 - Cause operating room inefficiencies
 - Waste hospital resources
- **Calendar year 2024 data showed:**
 - Increase in same-day cancellations
 - Higher rates seen in the inpatient population
- **Current PAT department structure:**
 - Staffed by RNs, schedulers, and an APRN
 - Primarily focused on outpatient optimization
- **Key gap identified:**
 - Inpatients were not consistently reviewed or rounded on preoperatively
- **Resulting issue:**
 - Medical problems often discovered on the day of surgery, leading to cancellations

Process of Implementation

- **PAT APRN role (established 2022):**
 - Focused on outpatient readiness
- **Change implemented (2025):**
 - Expanded role to include proactive inpatient surgical case review
- **Key interventions:**
 - Daily review of inpatient surgical schedules
 - Identification of patients needing optimization
 - Early collaboration with interdisciplinary teams
 - Coordination of preoperative testing
 - Analyzed trends and addressed barriers to cancellations
- **Evaluation method:**
 - Monthly tracking of same-day cancellations
 - Compared outcomes to baseline rates
 - Acted as liaison between PAT and anesthesia

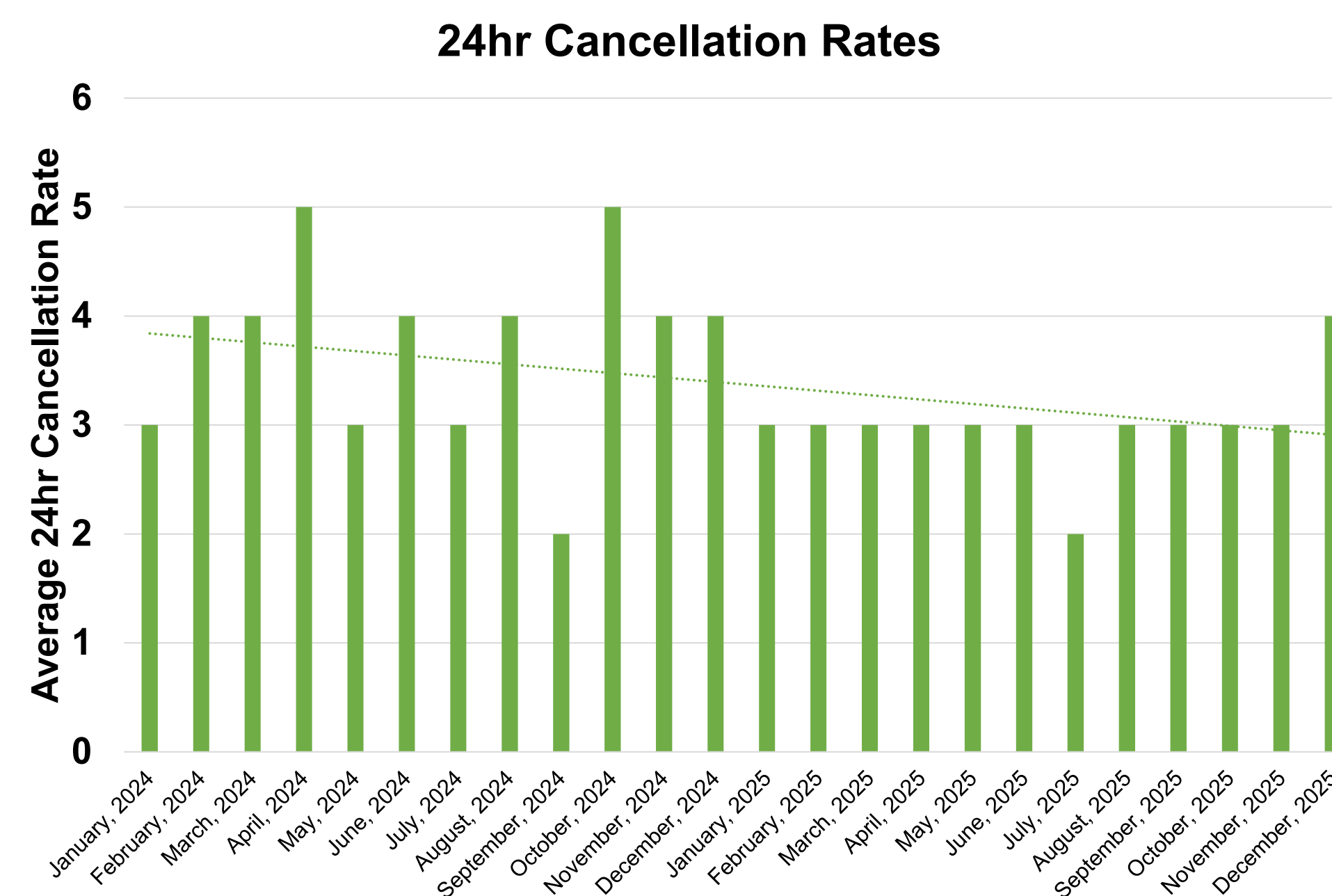
Statement of Successful Practice

- **Outcome achieved:**
 - 25% reduction in 24-hour surgical cancellations
 - Sustained improvement over time
- **Trend observed:**
 - Decrease in same-day cancellations
- **Impact of APRN role expansion:**
 - Earlier identification of medical readiness issues
 - Improved interdepartmental communication
 - Enhanced care coordination
- **Operational improvements:**
 - Smoother surgical case flow
 - Fewer day-of-surgery disruptions reported by staff
 - Increase OR Primetime Utilization

Objectives

- **Primary goal:** Reduce same-day surgical cancellations
- **Strategy:** Refocus the APRN role within the PAT department to include both outpatient and inpatient surgical optimization
- **Key focus areas:**
 - Improve communication with anesthesia
 - Enhance care coordination across teams
- **Overall aim:** Identify and address issues earlier to prevent day-of-surgery cancellations

Outcomes



Conclusion

- **Key takeaway:**
 - PAT nurses and APRNs are critical to patient readiness and surgical efficiency
- **Impact of expanded APRN role:**
 - Supports both inpatient and outpatient populations
 - Enhances collaboration across teams
 - Improves continuity of care
 - Promotes patient safety
- **Future considerations:**
 - Assess the long-term sustainability of the model
 - Evaluate cost-effectiveness
 - Explore replication across other service lines
- **Broader implication:**
 - Opportunity to advance PAT nursing practice