

PeriAnesthesia Mobile Nurse Project

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Background

At WellSpan York Hospital (WYH), a Level 1 Trauma Center, efficient inpatient surgical optimization is essential where operating room (OR) schedules change rapidly due to emergencies, resources, and patient acuity.

Our 3-bay inpatient pre-operative holding area manages 15-20 patients daily, requiring patients to arrive fully optimized. To prevent delays and last-minute cancellations amid rising volumes and acuity, the PeriAnesthesia team developed an innovative process to balance patient readiness and staffing resources.

Objective

WSYH Mobile Nurse Project aimed to:

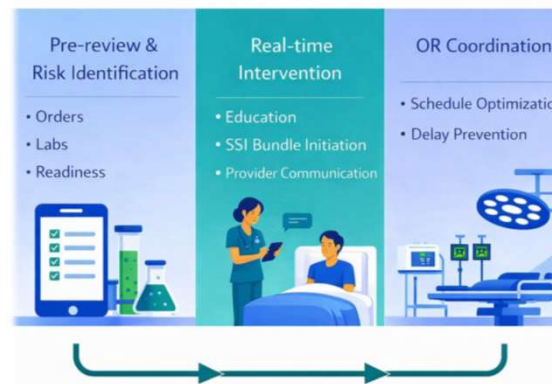
- Improve inpatient-OR collaboration
- Reduce delays and cancellations
- Increase compliance with preoperative surgical-site infection (SSI) prevention bundles
- Ensure patient readiness and surgery optimization, **Unoptimized patients represent a significant patient safety risk*

Mobile Nurse team

- PeriAnesthesia nurse
- Nursing Assistant

Process of Implementation

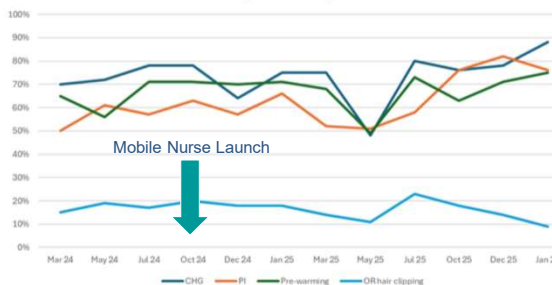
Mobile Nurse Workflow



Holding Area Patient Prep Time in Minutes



Pre-Operative Compliance



Statement of Successful Practice

- 42% reduction in holding area RN preparation time for inpatient surgeries (36 → 21 minutes)
- Sustained improvements in pre-op compliance, including chlorohexidine gluconate (CHG) bathing, pre-warming, povidone iodine (PI) timing, and hair clipping outside the OR
- Early identification of abnormal findings supported timely intervention and prevented last-minute delays or cancellations

Implications for Advancing the Practice of PeriAnesthesia Nursing

In response to OR production pressures, this project strengthens interdisciplinary collaboration to improve readiness, identify safety risks earlier, enhance SSI prevention measures, and reduce holding area preparation time: supporting surgical readiness at a moment's notice.

Limitations

- Lack of RN coverage overnight
- Staffing challenges
- Retrospective data does not discriminate cases which bypassed the holding area

Thank you to our Mobile Nurse team members: Tara Schlosser, RN; Karrie Grim, RN; Emily Naylor, RN, and our nursing assistants