

PACU DOCUMENTATION: A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO MEANINGFUL DOCUMENTATION

Team Leaders: Cindy Parks MSN RN CPAN, Melissa Yates BSN RN

University of Tennessee Medical Center, Knoxville, Tennessee

Team Members: PACU Team, Justin Barnes, IT

Background Information: Previous documentation was representative of acute care settings and nursing care. It was difficult to navigate and did not interact with anesthesia documentation. The documentation did not align with the American Society of Perianesthesia Nursing (ASPN) standards of practice guidelines.

Objectives of Project: The team's goal was to create and format a documentation tool specific to post-surgical care. The team wanted Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) documentation to align with ASPAN standards. Ultimately the nurses wanted an efficient documentation process that was more inclusive of PACU assessments and standards.

Process of Implementation: In order to determine opportunity for improvement, current documentation was assessed by all team members. The PACU team outlined daily documentation requirements and the barriers that decreased efficiency. The input gathered was presented to a representative from GE. A system that could accommodate the desired documentation was chosen by the team after viewing the presented options. During the developmental phase, phone conferences took place with the GE representative and a UTMC Informatics representative. Each step was shared via email with the team. This elicited useful input such as the need for visual color cues, increased number of drop down boxes, and the addition of the ability to populate areas from previous documentation.

Statement of Successful Practice: Upon evaluation, 100% of the nurses reported ease of use over previous documentation process. They especially expressed that the color-coded prompts reduced loss of assessment documentation. Newly hired nurses reported the process of documentation is easy to learn and more efficient than previously used systems.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: This documentation system is more efficient and representative of PACU assessments. The nurse driven documentation specific to PACU care reinforces the incorporation of best practice. Leading nurses to drive changes in electronic documentation enhances professional development and creates change at the front line of care.