

Improved Perioperative Handoff Through Informatics

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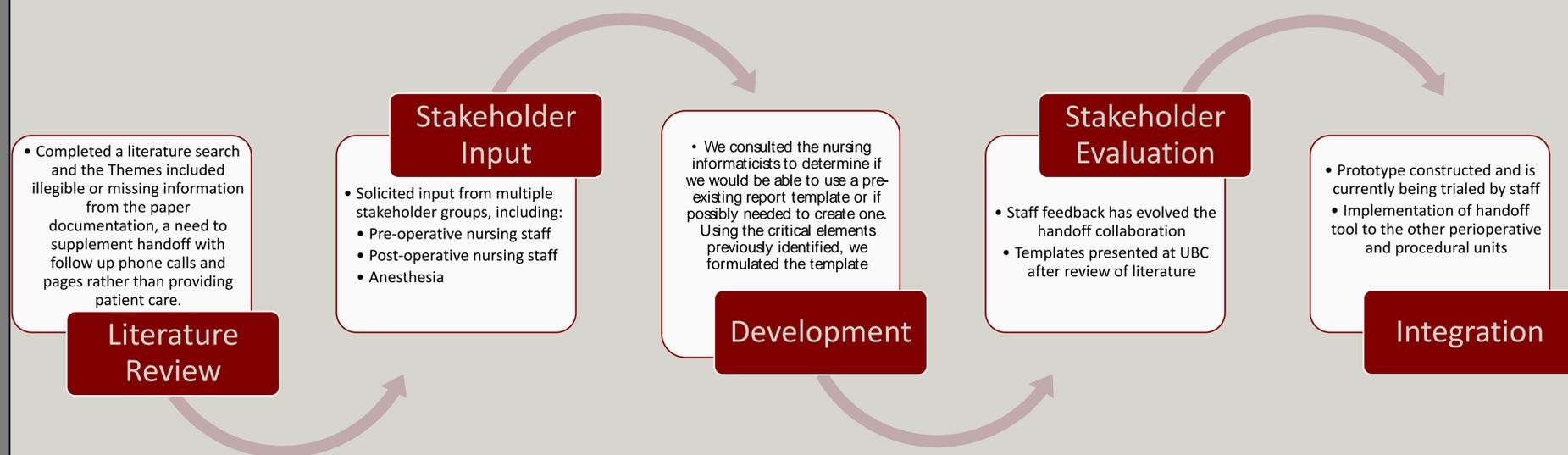
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Background

- Ineffective communication between healthcare providers can lead to sentinel events and may be the primary reason for errors in healthcare (Nether, 2017).
- To combat this, handoff communication was highlighted as a Joint Commission National Patient Safety Goal in 2006 (JCAHO, 2006).
- Missing information during handoff often results from illegible paper documentation (Nether, 2017).
- Use of an embedded electronic medical record (EMR) report for handoff improves communication by eliminating concerns of illegible documentation and ensuring all care team members have access to the most up-to-date information.

Process of Implementation



Objectives of Project

- Develop and integrate a seamless handoff communication report within the EMR to improve handoff communication throughout the perioperative area.



Previous Process

OR RN calls PACU RN

Additional information needed : POC Glucose, pertinent Medical history

1st tool was a hard copy with additional information

Current Process

PACU Handoff tool is printed when EPIC identifies that the patient is in the OR Suite

OR RN calls PACU RN to provide report

PACU RN uses Handoff tool which provides pertinent data (POC glucose, Allergies, Pertinent Medical History and discharge disposition)

Statement of Successful Practice

- A handoff tool was developed that is comprised of the critical elements previously identified by staff and information documented in the EMR.
- This tool contains the essential information that may be lost as the patient progresses through the perioperative care continuum.

Implications for Practice & Future Research

As we move forward and the information of our patient's care is documented in an electronic format, we should be able to use it to its full potential and provide safe effective patient care.

References

1. Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations(2005). 2006 National Patient Safety Goals
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2. Nether, K. (2017). The Art of Handoff Communication. Joint Commission Website accessed on April 10, 2019.
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