

The Impact of Implementing an Epic ERAS Pathway to Improve Nursing Documentation Compliance

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Background Information:

- In 2013, ERAS program implemented in the colorectal service
- In 2018 has expanded to include cardiac, liver, pancreas, urology, plastics, thoracic, head and neck, sarcoma
- A need for a standardized method of documentation and recognition of enrolled patients was identified
- With the implementation of an electronic health record, documentation of ERAS variables became challenging

Objectives of Project:

- Identify patients enrolled in ERAS protocol
- Ensure documentation compliance of all ERAS variables
- Educate staff on documentation in the clinical pathway
- Audit documentation and provide individual feedback to staff

Process of Implementation:

- Compliance with paper checklists decreased with initiation of electronic health record (EPIC)
- An electronic pathway was developed in EPIC to allow for standardized documentation
- Banners and icons were created in EPIC to identify patients on ERAS protocol
- Staff were surveyed after initiation of pathway to determine gaps in knowledge regarding ERAS pathway documentation
- Education was developed using staff feedback and implemented through presentations, tip sheets, and bedside support
- Reviewed documentation outcome data to improve compliance

Statement of Successful Practice:

- Patients are now more easily identified with ERAS banner and icon
- Outcome data from pre- and post- EPIC initiation determined engagement and documentation compliance
- Documentation of clearfast, hibiclens, and antibiotic prep all improved with EPIC documentation
- Results from staff surveys allow education to be targeted at specific gaps in practice

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:

- Improving documentation compliance with ERAS protocol
- Educating staff to improve compliance rates of documentation
- Improving patient outcomes, decreased surgical site infections, cardiac arrhythmias and length of stay