

Changing Workflow to Assess Abuse and Neglect

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Background Information:

- The Joint Commission (TJC) identified the need to screen patients at all new encounters at UMH-including perioperative/procedural areas
- Prior to January 2022 patients were not screened at any point in their perianesthesia care
- Jan 2022-Oct 2022 No patient representatives were allowed at bedside due to Covid restrictions. During this time there was a decreased number of patients that were marked Unable to Assess (UTA) due to privacy, versus the increase in positive screenings
- Nov 2022-Aug 2023 Patient representatives were allowed to be brought back alongside the patient. This resulted in an increase in the UTA percent and a decrease in positive screenings
- August 28, 2023 the new workflow pathway was implemented where the patient was brought to preop without representative and following assessment representative was to join patient in preop
- Allowing each patient privacy to be screened for abuse and neglect has led to providing assistance that otherwise would not happen

Objectives of Project:

- Improve patient outcomes by allowing additional opportunity to seek resources
- Increase access to social work resources
- Provide all patients with the opportunity to discuss sensitive issues such as abuse and neglect in a private, non-judgmental but direct setting

Process of Implementation:

- Patient will be brought back to Preop unaccompanied
- Preop nurse will complete Abuse and Neglect screening assessment. If positive nurse will enter a consult request for social work (SW), and notify the surgical team
- If SW is unable to assess patient in Preop, assessment/follow up will be attempted in PACU prior to discharge or on the inpatient unit if admitted
- After screening assessment, patient representative will be messaged to meet staff to be brought to Preop

Statement of Successful Practice: Based on the collected data, implementing our new guidelines has provided assistance to individuals who screened positive, whereas without the guidelines, the individual would not have had the opportunity to discuss abuse or neglect

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Add value to the patient experience and increase access to social work resources that may not have been accessed otherwise.