

## Background

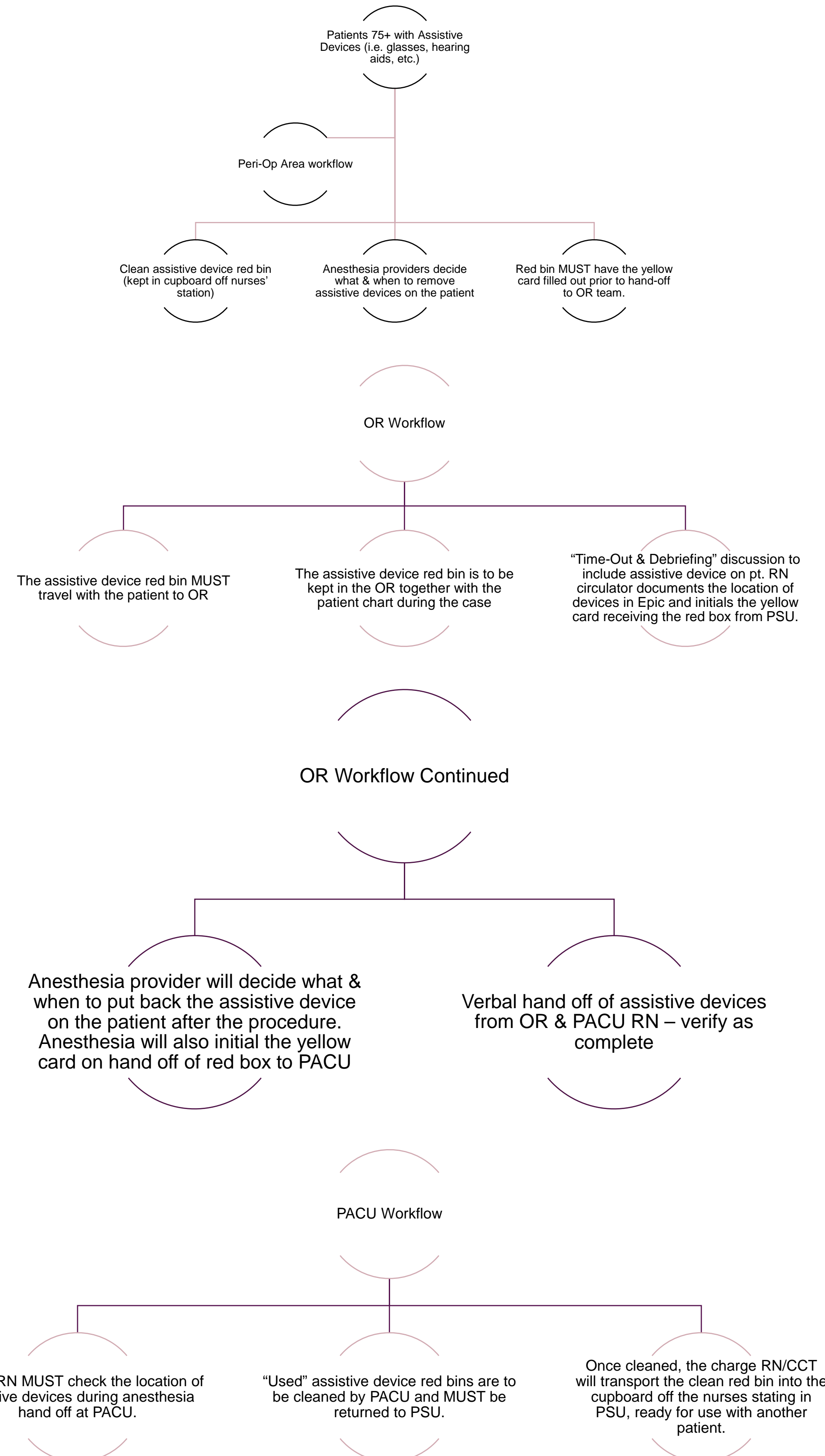
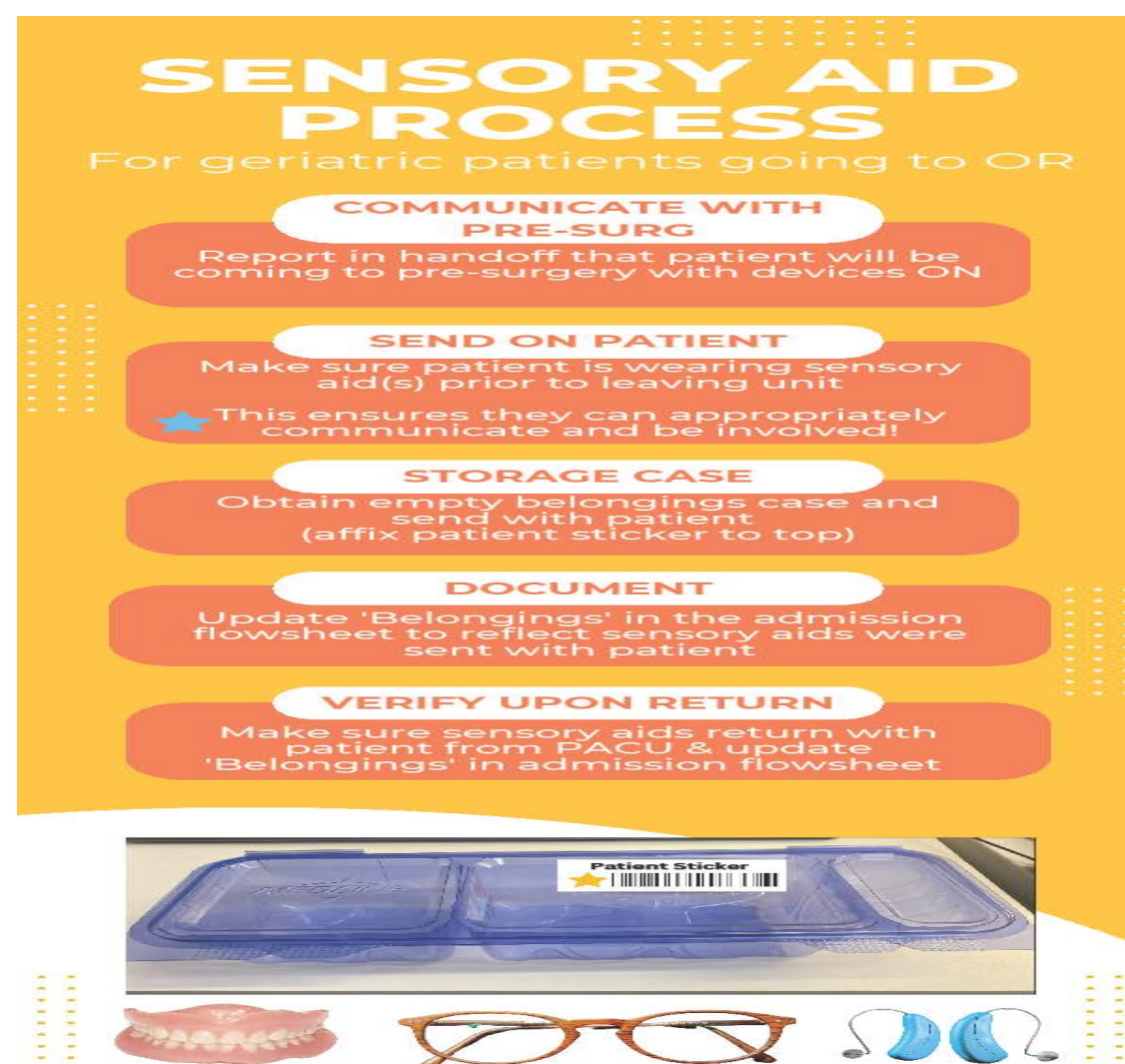
This project was instituted at a Midwest Level 1 Trauma Center in conjunction with their journey to achieve verification as a Geriatric Surgery Center from the American College of Surgeons

## Objective/Purpose

The purpose was to create a process that encourages and allows patients to retain their sensory aids throughout their surgical experience. The goal was to enhance patients' ability to engage with no losses of devices.

## Methods

Patients are encouraged to retain any devices required to see, hear and speak. Devices are kept in a red patient identified Tackle Box. Patients retain use of their devices throughout the perioperative experience. The box accompanies the patient to the operating room on their bed (cart). During surgery, sensory aids are removed and placed in the red tackle box by the circulating nurse. The tackle box accompanies the patient to the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) where PACU nurses place the devices on the patient allowing them to orient to their environment while emerging from anesthesia. Staff were educated on the process and tracking is recorded in the electronic medical record



## Outcomes

From inception in August of 22 through August of 23 over 150 patients were able to retain their sensory aids. During this time there were no devices lost. Anecdotally many patients, family members, nurses and surgeons have positive comments about this process improvement project. Initially the process focused on older adults undergoing a scheduled procedure, however after a few months the project was expanded to include emergent cases and all patients who require a sensory aid. There are still some patients who are reluctant to bring their assistive device for fear of the devices getting lost, but we continue to promote the benefits and share our process for ensuring the safe return of these expensive and valuable devices.

## Conclusions

This project demonstrates that patients may retain their sensory aids and have them safely returned. The implication in the perioperative setting is improved patient communication. The patients are more oriented and able to engage with their environment, potentially reducing incident delirium. The next step is to conduct a prospective study including surveying patients, families and staff monitoring for incident delirium and patient/family satisfaction.

