

PREOPERATIVE SCREENING OF MISSING SURGICAL DOCUMENTS PRIOR TO DAY OF SURGERY REDUCES SURGERY DELAY TIMES

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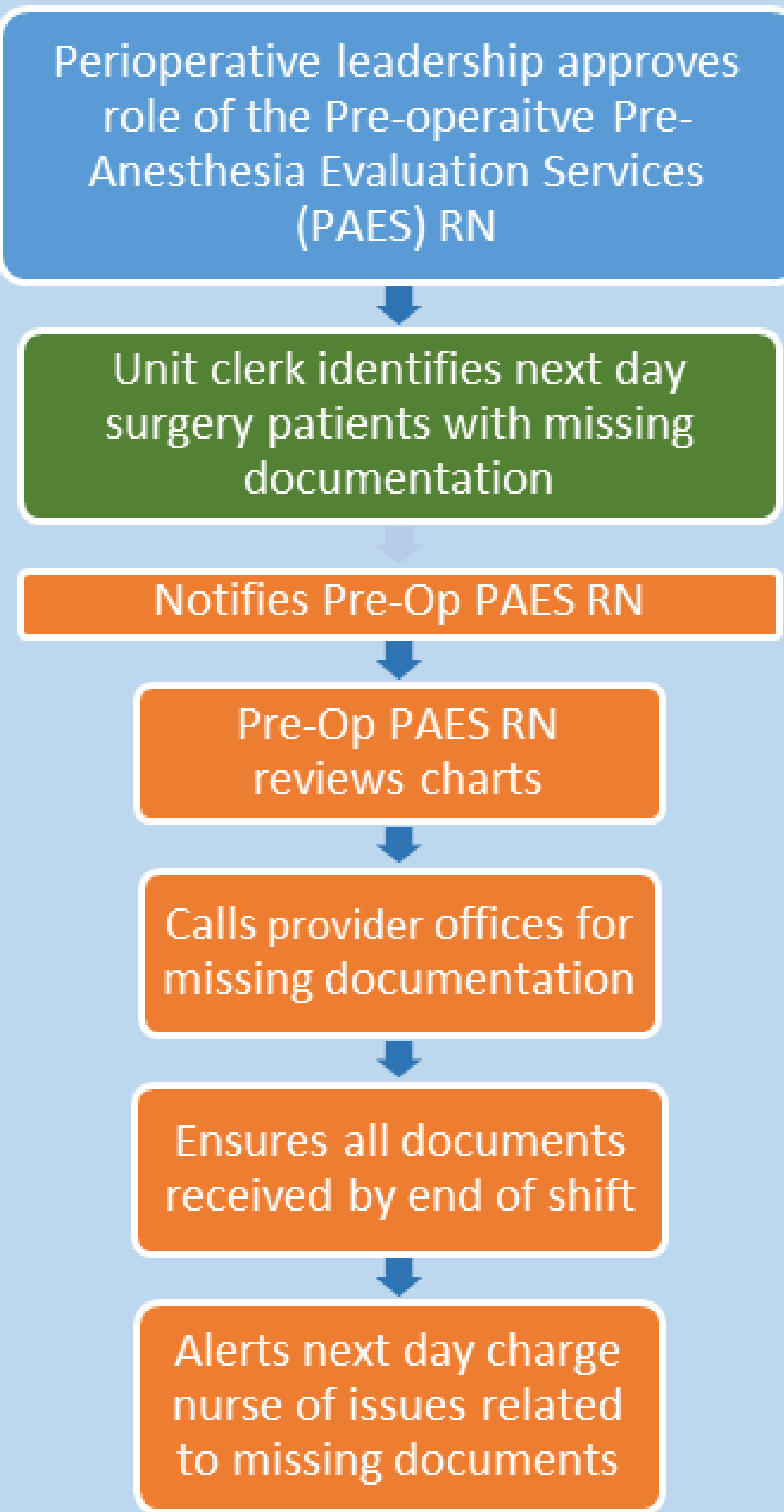
INTRODUCTION

- Missing required documents on surgery day leads to delays, provider frustration, and anxiety for patients and staff.
- Delays in first surgical cases have a ripple impact on efficiency, patient throughput, and resource utilization throughout the day.
- With rising operating room costs, surgical delays can substantially increase hospital costs.

BACKGROUND

- Pre-operative nurses noticed increasing trend of missing documents especially for first case surgeries.
- Requesting these missing documents meant early morning calls to providers which increased staff anxiety.
- As a result, pre-operative processes were delayed causing delays for first case surgeries which also increased patient anxiety.

NEW PROCESS



RESULTS

Post intervention (November 2022 – February 2023):

- The number of missing documentations for first cases decreased by **89%**
- The number of surgical delays declined by **25%**
- There was a cost avoidance of approximately **\$380,000** due to reduced delays

NURSING IMPLICATIONS

Through creative thinking and utilization of existing resources, perioperative nurses created a generalizable workflow process which improved patient care while reducing unnecessary delays and financial losses.

