

Safety Strategy in Decreasing Injury by Decluttering and Re-organizing Dirty Utility Room

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Introduction: Safety is one of the topmost priorities for staff in the PACU. Staff injuries create significant negative effects to both patients and staff within the department.

Identification of the Problem: The disarray of equipment made for a hazardous environment which increased the potential for injury.

QI Question/Purpose of the Study: Improve awareness of the staff on safety protocols, collaborate with EVS for increased pick up times of "Hovermatt" bins. "Hovermatt" is a transfer device utilized by staff for patient transfers between gurneys or beds. Collaborate with Engineering department to increase rounding and pick up of oxygen tanks inside the dirty utility room. Decrease decluttering and unused space by removing cabinets from the walls and improve space thereby reducing injuries.

Methods: The Plan- Do- Study- Act Framework was used in this project.

- Plan: Declutter dirty utility room
- Goal: A project to decrease risk of injury from staff in dirty utility room Do: Identify the problem.
- Study: Improving staff and patient safety and satisfaction in PACU. Increase in staff morale, increase staff retention and decrease absenteeism in the unit
- Act: Collaboration among Hovermat company ARJO to increase bins and add pick up dates for used Hovermats
- Collaboration with Eng for Oxygen tank removal
- Renovation of dirty utility space for removal of unused cabinets

Outcomes/Results: Since the implementation of the project, there has been no staff injuries within the department. Staff morale has improved based on People Pulse Staff Survey results. Absenteeism has decreased significantly by 25-30%.

Discussion: Improving safety culture, reducing cluster, staff accountability, and increasing staff satisfaction and morale.

Conclusion: After addressing the needs for rearrangement and decluttering of the dirty utility room; the room is now, cleaner, less cluttered and easier and safer to get in and out of. Staff satisfaction has Improved, and positive feedback has been given regarding these changes. The dirty utility room and now safer and easier to navigate through. These changes have decreased the clutter and there is no longer piles of dirty Hovermatts or oxygen tanks on the ground.

Implications for perianesthesia nurses and future research: Creating a safety environment at the workplace at the top priority. Collaboration with all departments involve creating an environment change.