# Maximizing Efficiency: Improving Inpatient to OR Readiness Pamela Christensen, MN, ARNP-CS, ACCNS-P, RN-BC Elena Raney, BSN, RN, CPN

## Introduction

Inpatient flow to the Operating Room (OR) has long been a focus for improvement.

- Inconsistencies in communication, handoffs, timing, ownership and process initiation contribute to case delays
- Inefficiencies impact patient flow, team and patient experience within Perioperative Services (PS)
- Lack of inpatient readiness also contributes to OR delays and decreased throughput

The Seattle Children's Perioperative Microsystem team is a multidisciplinary, frontline quality improvement team that strives to improve patient outcomes and operational efficiency. This team sought to identify, understand, and improve the drivers of OR efficiency.

### Purpose/Aim

**Purpose:** Improve efficiency in the perioperative process for inpatients having non-emergent surgery.

**Smart Aim:** Decrease OR delays by **10%** by end of Q4 FY24 for in-patient, non-emergent, non-ICU surgical cases. Defined as the time between when the OR called for the patient, to the preop tasks being completed as documented in the EHR.

# Methods

- Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) model guided the work Process mapping and current state analysis, utilizing voices from
- inpatient nurses, perioperative staff/providers, and a family advisor Key Driver Diagram (KDD) and PDSA-cycle methodology was
- adopted
- Electronic Health Record (EHR) utilized as a tool for data points and team communication

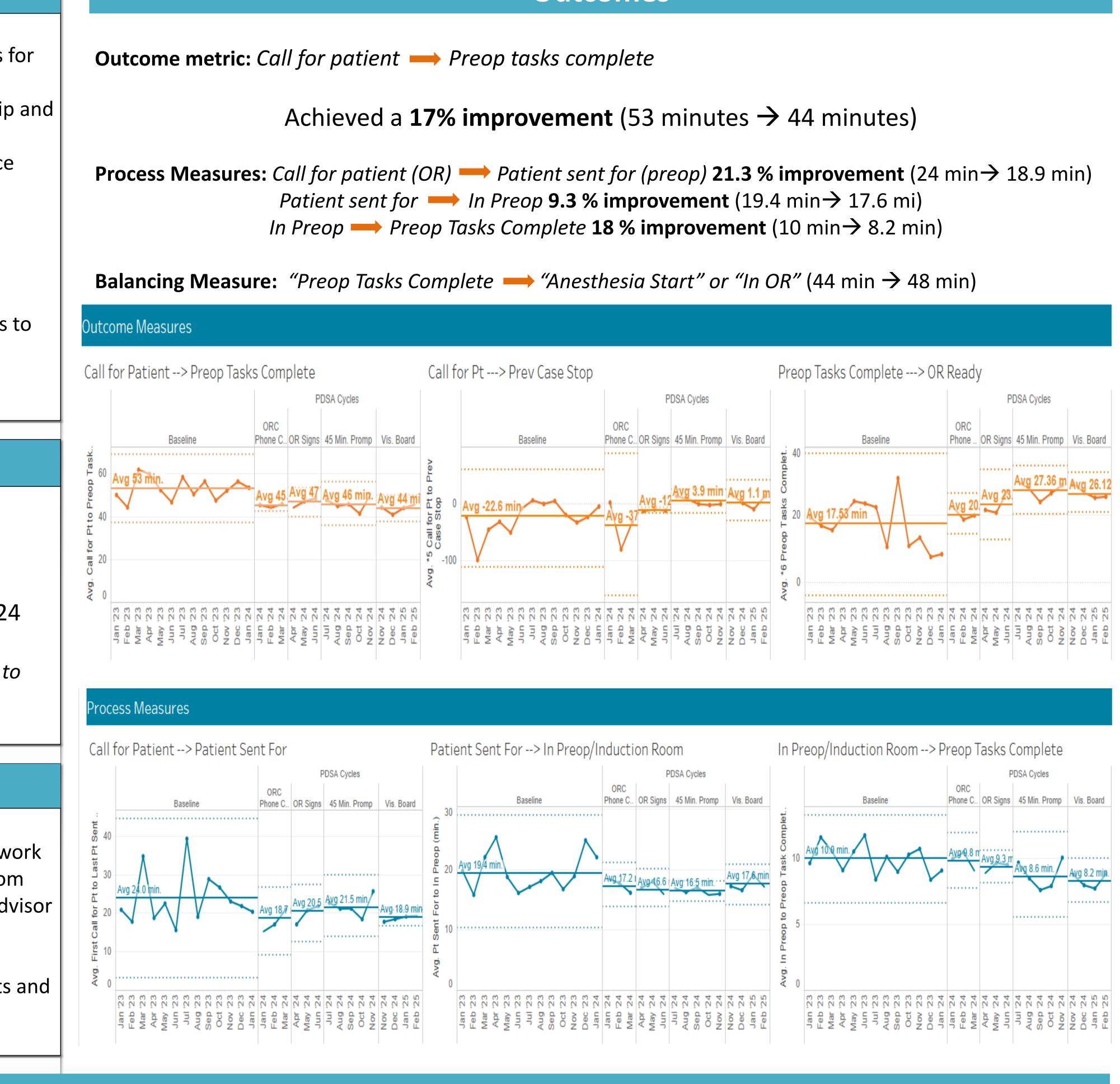
### Periop RN to Inpatient RN **Communication:**

**Operating Room** Coordinator (ORC) and night shift Perianesthesia RN call/EHR secure chat with standard script to notify time of surgery and pre-op tasks to complete

January 2024

Seattle Children's Perioperative Microsystems Team

### Outcomes



### Interventions

### **OR RN to Preop RN Communication:**

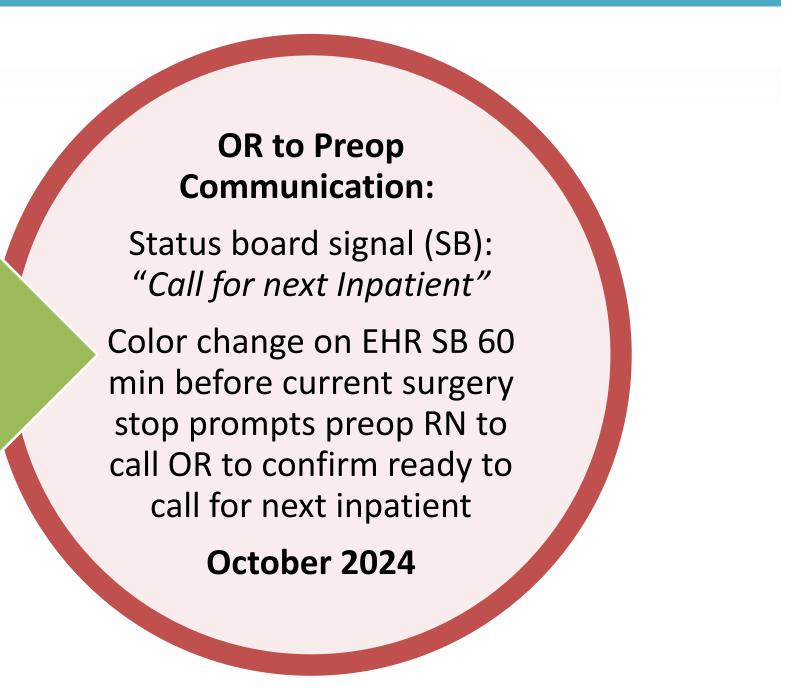
Standardized and posted who and what phone number OR RNs should call to reach preop RN when ready to send for inpatient

**April 2024** 

### **Staff Education:**

Inservices by Preop RN for Acute Care RNs: "Preparing your Patient for their surgery/Procedure"

**April-November 2024** 



- **Outcome measure exceeded goal**
- Improving timeliness of inpatient transfers to surgery is achievable Standardized processes improve consistency and efficiency
- Enhanced communication and standardized workflows are key Staff education, input and adherence to standards is vital for long-term
- sustainability
- Leveraging multidisciplinary teams familiar with the workflow is key to identifying areas for improvement
- Collaboration with inpatient teams is crucial for success
- Balancing measures demonstrated better efficiency with minimal impact on preop wait times

- Monitor equity data to assess impact on different language, race, and ethnic groups
- Hand off quality assurance phase to Perianesthesia managers and nursing shared governance
- Focus on balancing measures (*Preop tasks complete*  $\rightarrow$  *Patient in OR*) for further improvement work

# Implications for Perianesthesia Nursing

- Perianesthesia nurses play a critical role in ensuring all patients are prepared and ready for surgery.
- Nurses' expertise and in-depth understanding of the preoperative process are essential in facilitating smooth transitions to the operating room.
- Integrating the insights and specialized knowledge of perianesthesia nurses in improvement initiatives is vital to the success of efforts aimed at enhancing OR efficiency.
- Nurses' involvement ensures patient readiness is optimized, leading to better overall surgical outcomes and a streamlined perioperative experience.

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# Conclusions

### Next Steps

Apply learnings to procedural areas (GI, IR, Cath Lab)

# Acknowledgements

Seattle Children's Hospital Perioperative Microsystems Team:

