WE ROCK – YOU ROLL: Surgical Staging Unit Propels On-Time First Case Start Initiative

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Published In/Presented At
Janice Magliane ADN, RN and Marlene Mayza BSN, RN. We Rock – You Roll: Surgical Staging Unit Propels On-Time First Case Start Initiative. ASPAN National Conference, Orlando, FL, April 2012.

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Background:
A significant decline in operating room (OR) on-time first case start times to less than 45% prompted staff on the Surgical Staging Unit (SSU) at a Magnet hospital to re-evaluate current workflow and implement process improvement measures. It became clear this would require a multidisciplinary effort among all perioperative areas—SSU, OR, and Postanesthesia Care Unit (PACU)—to develop standard work.

Multidisciplinary Team Members:
- Perioperative Leadership from all areas
- Anesthesia
- Surgeons
- Front-line staff from:
  - OR, SSU, PACU
- Meet bi-weekly to:
  - Examine existing data and workflows
  - Develop new strategies to improve workflows—Standard Work
  - Detail implementation plan

Standard Work:
Primary Stakeholders in SSU—RN, unlicensed assistive staff, and receptionists—follow standard work for all patients:
- Meet and greet the patient and family (maintain family presence on unit)
- Orient to room on SSU
- Initiate OR Prep—vital signs, IV, weight, etc.
- Verify medical information with 1:1 interview
- Determine course of action (OR, Holding Room, etc.)
- Finish OR Prep—clippings, toileting, etc.
- Notify physician via electronic system
- Handoff to OR staff member utilizing standard SBAR report
- Discharge patient to OR

Results:
- Achieved 500% improvement from Week 1 to Week 4 of implementation
- Daily average on-time first case start times for FY12 is 87%
- Sustained results for 14 months

Overall Process Improvements:
- SBAR handoff communication with OR staff
- Time-Out process with physicians
- Efficiency
- Communication
- Staff and patients report increased satisfaction with standard work and process flow