

## Preparing Contaminated Instrumentation for Quick Turnover: A Team Approach

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# Preparing Contaminated Instrumentation for Quick Turnover: A Team Approach

## Perioperative Services

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### Abstract:

In 2011, the average turnover time for a priority tray at Lehigh Valley Hospital, a Level One Trauma Center, was 180 minutes. This lengthy time was causing an unnecessary burden to OR efficiency decreasing staff morale. Dissatisfied with its effect on these key indicators of engagement and satisfaction, the leadership from multiple departments formed a multi-disciplinary work group. The group's task was to decrease delays within the process while still meeting the requirements of the manufactures "Instructions for Use" (IFU). The group was comprised of members from the

- OR staff
- Sterile Processing Staff
- Leadership within the division
- Process Improvement department.

After understanding the current state and all impediments, the group formulated a plan to expedite priority trays immediately after their use with:

- A computer "Fast Track" system
- An electronic visual system for identifying instrumentation
- Revised sterilization processes.

### Goal:

The OR has the capacity to increase the number of procedures performed daily. It is the goal of the Sterile Processing Department to help accomplish this task without having to purchase additional instrumentation. In order for Sterile Processing to meet the additional needs of the ORs it must reduce the instrument turnover time by an average of 25 minutes per tray.

### Goal!

Turnover time  
reduced by  
25 minutes

### Steps to Success:

- 1 The team learns the Sterile Processing Department's functions before preparing a value stream map.
- 2 Vendors place a colorful tag on each of their sets to help the staff identify the day of use.
- 3 Instrument cleaning areas in the decontamination unit are identical.
- 4 Every extra instrument is stored in a specific location. Each instrument's location is listed on the assembly sheet.
- 5 The prep and pack stations are identical. They are outfitted with a scanner, additional lighting and magnifiers.
- 6 Generic rigid containers implemented.
- 7 Sterilizers have the identical control panels and scanner information.
- 8 "White Side" wrapping for loaner sets. "Blue Side" wrapping for consigned trays and trays owned by the hospital.
- 9 Tray labels are scanned at locations throughout the hospital to track the position of each item.

### Evaluation:

Diligence paid off resulting in a 25 minute reduction in turn over time in less than 4 months. The successful process provided additional opportunities for the OR scheduling department to add to the number of procedures without increasing instrument inventory.

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