Enhancing Communication Along the Perioperative Continuum.

Amanda L. Knoll BSN, RN
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Amanda_L.Knoll@lvhn.org

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarlyworks.lvhn.org/patient-care-services-nursing

Part of the Nursing Commons

Published In/Presented At

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by LVHN Scholarly Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in LVHN Scholarly Works by an authorized administrator. For more information, please contact LibraryServices@lvhn.org.
As a network that services over 38,000 surgical cases a year, it was identified that patients were entering the surgical arena without proper communication and documentation completed by the perioperative team. The concern for patient safety and potential for error drove a new process.

The STOP sign is utilized as a communication tool. This visual aid has enhanced relationships between the operating room and preoperative staff. Patient information is shared with the receiving team to optimize care the patients receive.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

The STOP sign is utilized as a communication tool. This visual aid has enhanced relationships between the operating room and preoperative staff. Patient information is shared with the receiving team to optimize care the patients receive.

**PURPOSE:**

As a network that services over 38,000 surgical cases a year, it was identified that patients were entering the surgical arena without proper communication and documentation completed by the perioperative team. The concern for patient safety and potential for error drove a new process.

**METHODOLOGY:**

- Create a multidisciplinary team including both preoperative and intraoperative nursing staff as well as managers to create a tool
- Evaluation of the current process to look for areas of improvement
- Develop a visual reminder with the STOP sign to increase communication regarding the patient's care
- The team participated in educating the frontline staff on utilization of the STOP sign

**RELEVANCE:**

With the growing surgical case volume, developing and implementing a process to increase communication between the surgical team and the preoperative team. This process is aimed at decreasing near misses with patients and enhance communication within the perioperative team.

**OUTCOME:**

- Decreased amount of errors in documentation
- Enhanced patient safety with increased communication within the perioperative team
- Created a more favorable working environment