

Going for Gold with the Perioperative Olympics

Hope L. Johnson MSN, RN, CNOR
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Hope_L.Johnson@lvhn.org

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

 Part of the [Nursing Administration Commons](#), and the [Perioperative, Operating Room and Surgical Nursing Commons](#)

Published In/Presented At

Johnson, H. L. (2019, April 5). *Going for Gold with the Perioperative Olympics*. Poster Presented at: The Association of perioperative Registered Nurses, Nashville, TN.

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.

Going for Gold with the Perioperative Olympics

Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pa.

OBJECTIVES

- Examine financial pressures in health care, with specific emphasis on Perioperative Services.
- Identify creative approaches to engaging colleagues with cost savings and expense reduction.
- Share tools created for Cost Saving Olympic initiative.

BACKGROUND

Leadership within the perioperative division of a community based health network with 8 campuses were tasked with finding an innovative solution to expense management. Understanding that front-line colleagues often see waste through a different lens than leadership, the team wanted to implore the staff to provide ideas on expense savings. During a brainstorming session, which happened during the 2018 winter Olympics, a play on the idea of holding an Olympic themed competition between campuses was envisioned.

METHODOLOGY

A call for “Olympic” saving ideas were solicited to all staff members at each campus, within each department of Perioperative Services. Submissions were asked to focus on opportunities to reduce cost, reduce waste, or other innovative ideas for savings. The program was presented by site leadership at each campus to generate healthy competition.

“Olympians” presented their ideas to a panel of “judges” – who included members of our Perioperative Business Services Department and Value Analysis Program. Ideas were judged and scored on their creativity, feasibility, and financial impacts.

After the idea was presented, financial data was captured and tallied, along with the scores for the other areas.

OUTCOMES

The Perioperative Olympics generated 78 individual ideas on either cost-saving or efficiency enhancements. These 78 ideas generated a potential annual savings of over \$1M. 52 of these ideas were implemented immediately. Ideas ranged from changing the standard doctor’s preference card to a procedure card, which encouraged standardization, to implementing water conservation on our scrub sinks. Gold and Silver medalists from each category were awarded to staff. In the first two quarters of FY19, over \$330,000 in actual savings was captured based on the implementation of Olympic ideas. Savings have continued, along with implementing the ideas front-line colleagues have suggested, with an anticipated savings of over \$720,000.

LEARNINGS

- Collaborating with our front-line colleagues aided in engagement
- Innovative ideas not solely focusing on financial impacts helped support changes

