

Improving On-Time Starts and Room Turnover in the Electrophysiology Department

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Need for the Study

On-time starts and efficient room turnover in the procedural area is vital for both patient care and hospital operations to improve patient safety and experience, decrease costs, and improve team morale

🛡️ Patient Safety & Experience

- Minimizes delays in care: Timely starts ensure patients aren't waiting unnecessarily, which can reduce anxiety and improve satisfaction.
- Reduces risk of complications: Efficient turnover helps maintain surgical schedules, preventing fatigue among staff and rushed procedures later in the day.
- Improves infection control: Standardized cleaning during turnover reduces the risk of surgical site infections.

💰 Financial & Operational Efficiency

- Maximizes OR utilization: The OR is one of the most expensive areas in a hospital—every minute counts. On-time starts and quick turnovers allow more cases to be scheduled each day.
- Reduces overtime costs: Delays early in the day can snowball, leading to staff working late and increased labor expenses.
- Boosts revenue: More surgeries per day means more income for the hospital, especially in high-demand specialties.

👥 Team Coordination & Morale

- Improves workflow: When everyone knows their role and the schedule runs smoothly, it fosters better teamwork and communication.
- Reduces burnout: Predictable schedules help staff manage their time and energy, which is crucial in high-stress environments like procedural areas.

Methods/ Analysis

🕒 On-Time Starts: Strategic Interventions

Patient readiness: Standardization of pre-op workflows to ensure toileting, prepping, and consenting were completed early, eliminating last-minute delays.

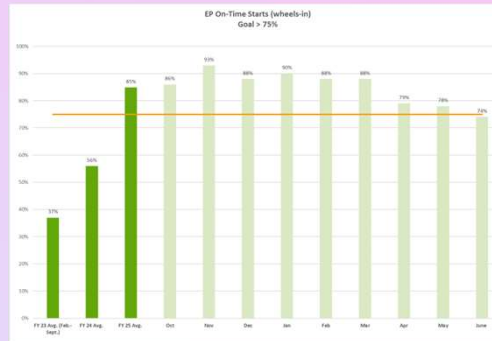
Anesthesia readiness: Collaboration with anesthesia led to earlier assessments and reduced bottlenecks.

Physician H&P documentation: Partnering with EP physicians to set a clear goal of entering histories and physicals in the EMR by 7:15 AM. Weekly email updates highlighted successes and fallouts, while monthly reports helped reinforce accountability and drive improvement.

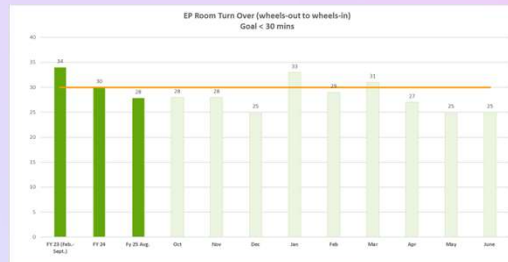
🧹 Room Turnover: Strategic Interventions

Task mapping and assignment: Each staff member received defined tasks—whether cleaning, equipment setup, or patient transport—eliminating duplication and streamlining handoffs

On-Time Starts Improvement



Room Turn Over Improvement



Results

On-Time Starts: The data shows a strong and consistent improvement in EP on-time procedure starts over the observed periods. Starting from just 37% in FY 23 (Feb.–Sept.), performance rose to 56% in FY 24 and then made a significant leap to 85% in FY 25. Monthly data for FY 25 further highlights this progress, with nine consecutive months—from October through May—exceeding the goal of 75%. The highest performance was recorded in November at 93%, while June was the only month to fall slightly below the target at 74%. Overall, the results reflect a successful and sustained effort to improve punctuality in procedure starts.

Room Turnover: The results show a steady improvement in EP room turnover times over the observed periods. The average time decreased from 34 minutes in FY 23 to 30 minutes in FY 24, and further to 28 minutes in FY 25. Most months in FY 25 met the target of under 30 minutes, with December, May, and June achieving the best performance at 25 minutes. Only January and March exceeded the goal, recording 33 and 31 minutes respectively. Overall, the data reflects consistent progress toward more efficient room turnover.

Discussion

The consistent improvements in both on-time procedure starts and room turnover times have had a significant impact on overall operational performance. These enhancements contribute directly to increased efficiency by optimizing the use of procedural spaces and minimizing delays throughout the day. As a result, healthcare teams are able to manage schedules more effectively, reduce patient wait times, and accommodate more cases within the same timeframe. From a financial perspective, improved efficiency translates into reduced labor and operational costs. Fewer delays mean less overtime and better utilization of staff and equipment, which helps control expenditures and supports long-term sustainability. Equally important is the positive effect on staff morale. A more predictable and streamlined workflow reduces stress and frustration among team members, fostering a more collaborative and productive work environment. When staff can rely on consistent start times and efficient room turnover, it enhances job satisfaction and supports retention. Together, these improvements reflect a strong commitment to quality, patient-centered care, and continuous process optimization. They not only support institutional goals but also align with broader healthcare standards for safety, efficiency, and excellence.

References

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- Pashankar, D. S., Zhao, A. M., Bathrick, R., Taylor, C., Boules, H., Cowles, R. A., & Grossman, M. (2020). A Quality Improvement Project to Improve First Case On-time Starts in the Pediatric Operating Room. *Pediatric quality & safety*, 5(4), e305. <https://doi.org/10.1097/pq9.0000000000000305>