

The Creation of a Pre-Admission Testing Nurse in the ASC

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Abstract

The role of the Pre-Admission Testing (PAT) Nurse is integral in ensuring that patients are appropriate and adequately prepared for outpatient surgery. The operating room suite is one of the largest contributors to a hospital's economic success, but it can also be one of the most costly. It is a priority to identify modifiable risks of operating room case cancellations to ensure timely and efficient delivery of care. Cancellation of elective scheduled operations on the day of surgery, case delays, extended recovery room times, and transfers to higher levels of care are some of the unplanned reasons for incurring increased costs. These reasons result in a significant waste of resources, especially when cancellations occur. A structured preoperative assessment has been reported to improve operating room efficiency.

Aims & Goals

- Identify modifiable risks of appropriate outpatient operating room case.
- Capture incomplete medical histories, missing screenings & medications.
- Reduce cancellation of elective scheduled operations on the day of surgery.

Background

- Gaps in surgical scheduling practice often stem from a lack of well-defined processes and communication breakdowns.
- Cancellation of elective scheduled operations on the day of surgery, case delays, extended recovery room times, and transfers to higher levels of care are some of the unplanned reasons for incurring increased costs. These reasons result in a significant waste of resources, especially when cancellation occurs.

Methods

- A proactive approach is essential in providing safe and successful surgical care to the patient.
- Structuring a preoperative review of patient's chart has been reported to improve operating room scheduling appropriateness & efficiency.

Evidence-Based Practice



A Pre-Admission Testing (PAT) nurse in an Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) plays a vital role in preparing patient charts for surgery by collecting comprehensive medical histories, identifying potential issues, and coordinating necessary testing. This proactive approach improves operational efficiency, reduces patient transfers, and enhances patient safety and staff satisfaction.

Evaluation

- Through collaboration with the surgical offices, the surgical teams, anesthesiologists, nursing and other healthcare providers, they develop an individualized care plan for each patient, thus reducing the reasons for cancellations of scheduled elective outpatient surgery.

Conclusion

- A Pre-Admission Testing Nurse role in an ASC can reduce practice gaps, impact efficiency and increase patient safety & staff satisfaction.
- The annual QCQR 2024 hospital transfer/admission rate per 1000 ASC admissions was 0.806.
- Our ASC annual 2024 hospital transfer/admission rate per 1000 ASC admissions was 2.0695.
- Our ASC hospital/transfer admission rate for 2025 at present (from 1/1/25- 9/30/25) is 0.9495.

References

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