

# **The Role of Preoperative Nurses in Decreasing Operating Room (OR) Turnover Time and Promoting the On-Time Starts of First Cases in the OR**

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**Introduction:** To ensure the delivery of safe and efficient surgical care for our patients, we focused on improving room turnover and first case on time starts (FCOTS), which requires collaboration of all team members.

**Identification of the problem:** To understand baseline metrics, 202 cases from 3/1/20-2/28/21 were evaluated. Median room turnover time in the Main OR was 46 minutes and only 35% of first cases wheeled into the OR on time.

**QI question/Purpose of the study:** To design a new preoperative process, with guidance from the Enterprise Project Management Office, to reduce the median room turnover time by 20-30% and first case delays by 30-60%.

**Methods:** In order to reduce the median turnover time and room delays, the project team:

- Trained nurses in Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, Control
- Conducted literature and data review
- Held mini-kaizen sessions
- Partnered with Simulator Program to test workflows
- Piloted interventions impacting communication, coordination, consistency, and collaboration within all services
- Reviewed any related safety events

**Outcomes/Results:** Within the piloted services, data was collected on 61 first cases and 141 room turnover cases. The percentage of on time starts increased from 35% to 65% and a four minute improvement in the first case start delay. The median turnover time was reduced by 13%, from 46 minutes to 40 minutes. There were no reported safety events reported for these cases.

**Discussion:** First surgical case on time starts and operating room turnover are two key areas of high quality care. Consistent communication between the preoperative lead RN and the OR charge RN are critical to the success of these care processes.

**Conclusion:** The implemented processes were demonstrated to be feasible, safe, and early results demonstrated an increase in efficiency of care.

## **Implications for perianesthesia nurses and future research:**

To decrease delays:

- A new workflow was created to ensure timely pre-op consents, labs, and x-rays.
- The inpatient pre-op checklist was improved.
- A morning huddle was initiated in each Operating Room prior to the start of first case to anticipate needs of the day
- The ISD department has incorporated a more efficient workflow

By increasing FCOTS and decreasing room turnover time, other components of quality care such as timeliness and satisfaction may improve.