

Pre-Procedural Patient Screening: How to Improve Patient Care

Karen Morse-Gallagher, RN, BSN, MBA

Pre-Procedural Patient Screening: How to Improve Patient Care Purpose: The development of this telephone tool is to capture important pre procedural data. This tool was developed with assistance of Information Technology Support thru Partners Health Care Systems. The pre Screening tool was developed to target the CDIC (Cardiovascular Diagnostic Interventional Center) patient population. This patient population serves the following areas: Interventional Cardiology, Electrophysiology and Vascular Surgery. Nursing recognized that an improvement in collection of data from a pre-procedural standpoint was important to assisting patients prior to their scheduled procedure. The tool was developed to include the following areas: Health History, Anesthesia and Sedation, Major Co Morbidities, Medications, Allergies, Pre-Procedural Work up, to include required diagnostic testing and labs. Procedure, to address patient's questions and patient education. Day of Procedure Instructions, Important Patient Phone numbers. These sections ensure patients receive important information about their procedure. The questions asked of the patient also address mandated reporting I.E. (JACHO) Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals and meets National Patient Safety Goals. The collection of this data and the dissemination of this information electronically thru LMR (Longitudinal Medical Record) allow the health care team to access this information and to utilize this repository of data to ensure High Quality and Safety to our patients. This electronic component educates our patients on the importance of Medication Compliance and reconciliation. Our nursing practice begins the transition to computerized nursing documentation this electronic nursing tool has been a positive force within the health care continuum. The communication has been clear and concise to all medical and nursing disciplines. The tool is printed and placed in the patient's medical record and is incorporated in the pre procedural nursing note on the day of the scheduled procedure. The electronic tool has been affective repository of information for other departments to utilize. I.E. Pre Admitting Testing Center can access this information prior to the patient's visit for a Cardiac Surgery. Thus providing the advanced practice nurse a synopsis of the patient's health care history. Documentation is critical in helping us to provide the highest quality of patient safety and care.