

Title: A nurse-led telephone screening initiative to identify low-risk elective orthopedic surgery patients to improve preanesthesia clinic efficiency

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“On my honor, I pledged that I have neither given nor received any unauthorized assistance on this paper and I declare no conflict of interest.” Greer Barlow

Conflict of Interest Statement: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Ethical Approval: This quality improvement project was reviewed by the Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare Institutional Review Board (IRB) and approval was granted on January 18, 2017 (IRB#16-40).

Abstract

Aim: To reduce the number of elective orthopedic surgery patients seen in the preanesthesia clinic, using a registered nurse (RN) nurse-led preoperative process to identify low-risk patients.

Background: All patients scheduled for elective orthopedic surgery are seen by an anesthesiologist routinely in the preanesthesia clinic as part of their standard preoperative evaluation.

Method: This quality improvement study was performed across the orthopedic services outpatient population, in a tertiary healthcare center in Saudi Arabia. A simple “yes/no” questionnaire was developed and utilized over a three-month period to identify the low-risk adult patient population and determine if a preanesthesia clinic visit was necessary.

Results: Among a sample of 193 patients, 36 (18.7%) were assessed as healthy, and did not require an anesthesiologist evaluation in the preanesthesia clinic.

Conclusions: All elective orthopedic surgery patients do not require a routine preanesthesia visit prior to their surgery. Preoperative care should be tailored to the needs of each patient.

Implication for Nursing Management: This study demonstrates how an RN can improve the utilization of the preanesthesia clinic by using a validated screening tool, and reduce the number of preanesthesia visits.

Keywords: preanesthesia clinic, nurse telephone screening, tele-visit, elective orthopedic surgery, preoperative assessment programs.