

Friday, September 23, 2016

Cleaning Up with Visual Cues

Sometimes standardization across campuses is impractical. The Operating Room (OR) Turnaround Time team learned this lesson when it investigated how Environmental Services staff is notified that an OR suite needs cleaning.

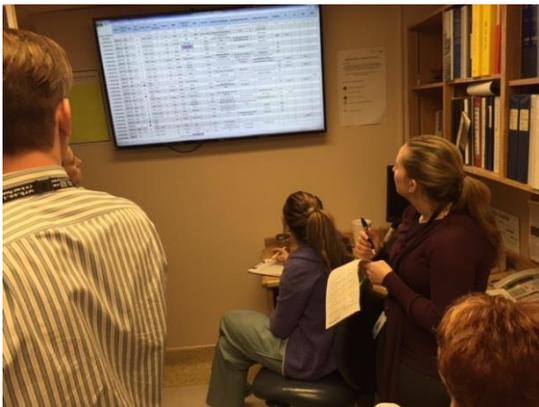
At Ouellette Campus, staff rely on pagers for notification that an OR suite is ready for cleaning. Met Campus staff members rely on subtle clues that a surgical case is finished, such as the clicking of brakes on stretchers or increased traffic around a room. The difference translates into a response time that is one minute faster at Ouellette.

A business case on implementing pagers at Met identified that the cost simply did not justify the one minute potential savings per case. However, something still needed to be done so that staff no longer had to rely on intuition to cue the need for Environmental Services. So, the Turnaround Time team borrowed the idea of a visual cue from inpatient units – wall flags. Once an OR requires cleaning, the surgical team simply flips out the flag to let the cleaning team know that the room is “dirty”. Once the room is cleaned, the wall flag is flipped back in. Simple and cost efficient!



Wall flags have been installed outside operating room (OR) suites at Met Campus to provide a visual cue to Environmental Services staff when an OR suite is ready for cleaning.

Standard Unit: Spreading Change Across Campuses



At Ouellette Campus, electronic Care Rounds Boards have been implemented on 7E and 7W.

This week, the Standard Unit Project Team is helping to launch Care Rounds on 7E and 7W at Ouellette Campus. These boards will allow unit staff and interdisciplinary team members to report on barriers to discharge and work together on a daily plan of care that is tailored to support the patient’s recovery, as well as timely discharge from hospital.

At Met Campus, 4W is working to implement Shift to Shift reporting. During Shift to Shift report, nurses use the Patient Summary Tool as a key source to provide oncoming staff with necessary information in order to facilitate a seamless transition in care for our patients. As Shift to Shift reporting occurs in pre-determined modules, nursing staff are also able to ensure patient safety through the appropriate assignment of nurses to their module.

Have a great weekend!

The SOP Team

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