Pre Operative Team Briefings in the Orthopaedic Surgical Unit
St Woolos Theatres

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Introduction

Communication and teamwork are vital towards promoting a culture of safety. It has been shown that communication breakdowns is the most frequent cause of adverse incidents within the healthcare setting.

The 1000 Lives campaign uses a team briefing approach at the beginning of every operative list. This concept is a simple way for the operating team to share information and concerns about patients on that list. A structured questionnaire was used to capture any concerns; this briefing was performed at the beginning of the day.

Aim

- To increase communication and promote a culture of safety
- To reduce patient cancellations as a result of equipment issues
- To promote team working

Method

Team Briefing Documentation development
PDSA cycles across theatres and further document development

A retrospective study of the questionnaire was used to understand compliance of staff attending briefings and what information was discussed.

Staff interviews were conducted to understand if these briefings were beneficial.

Results

All areas were discussed, the following charts show specific issues that were acted upon and staff compliance attending the briefings.

Conclusion and Discussion

Team briefings have now become embedded within the unit and have shown to be ‘best practice’ towards patient safety within the theatre environment.

Initial clinical engagement was slow but now they take the lead

No cancellations of patients due to equipment issues

Increase in clinician engagement with all team members

Issues that could affect patient safety were picked up prior to the list starting.

Staff were more confident in dealing with Consultants and were able to ‘voice’ any concerns at the meeting.

Staff have found these briefings a valuable source of communication towards patient safety.

Next steps to perform ‘Team debriefings’

References


Dunn W Murphy JG (2008) The patient handoff; medicine’s formula one moment. Chest; 134:9,12