

Improving Efficiency in the Sterile Core to Increase Productivity, Staff Satisfaction and Patient Safety

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INTRODUCTION

Research has shown that standardization delivers optimal outcomes. “Standardizing evidence-based best practices throughout the perioperative period and turning them into checklists or other tools for clinicians is the most efficient, consistent way to ensure that no step is missed that could jeopardize patient safety”(Blomberg, 2017).

BACKGROUND

In 2019, specific surgical specialties moved from Virtua Marlton Operating Room (OR) to the Joint Replacement Institute (JRI) OR in Voorhees. Due to this merger, the JRI OR inventory of sterile instruments and supplies increased significantly, which resulted in an unorganized system within the sterile core. This led to staff frustration, lost instruments and delays in patient care due to increased time spent searching for instruments.

OBJECTIVES

1. Standardize the sterile core by creating a master list of the instrument set locations itemized by cart numbers.
2. Decrease staff frustration and loss of instruments as a result of the organization process.
3. Decrease surgical delays therefore increasing patient satisfaction.



Portion of Sterile Center Core

METHOD

- Each instrument cart was organized in collaboration with our central supply team.
- The carts were numbered overhead and placed into specific specialties surgical procedures.
- A list of each instrument tray was obtained and put into a database.
- The trays were then catalogued into alphabetical and numeric order creating a master list.
- Each master list was hung in numerous spots throughout the center core.
- Finally the trays were standardized onto their specialty carts.



RESULTS

In evaluating the outcome of this project, the team found that the OR and Central Sterile Supply (CSS) staff were very happy with the new system. Both the CSS team and the OR staff utilize the same master list/cart system which has minimized instrument loss/misplacement as well as decreased the amount of time searching for instrument sets.

DISCUSSION

One improvement proposed was to attach the cart numbers to the carts in addition to hanging them overhead. In the event our carts need to be moved, this will make it easier to replace them in their appropriate spots.

REFERENCES

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2. Blomberg A, (2017). How Standardization Can Improve OR Efficiency, Clinical Outcomes, and Patient Safety.