

Our Team

Created by a nurse and mother of a child with Autism in 2014, George's Pass was a grassroots effort to improve the hospital experience for children with Autism and special needs. Shelly Reyes formed a multidisciplinary team of nurses, physicians, child life and behavior specialists. This nurse driven, evidence-based program partners with the patient and family to meet the patient's individualized need in the hospital as well as the community.

Preparation & Planning

The team assessed where changes needed to be made in areas of patient comfort, staff injury and baseline knowledge of the care team. An intake form was developed to assess the individualized needs of each special needs child. Educational workshops were provided to educate staff and provide effective techniques and tools to improve care. This raised awareness and understanding of the accommodations needed to improve the hospital experience.

Implementation

From start to finish, we partner with the patient and family with the goal of providing the best hospital experience.

Identification

When a child is identified to have Autism and special needs, the chart is flagged as a "George's Pass" to provide awareness to all staff that accommodation may be needed. There is an identifier in the EMR, patient tracker board and door of patient room.

Intake Form

The parent is interviewed on preferred methods of communication, sensory sensitivities, behavior triggers, and de-escalating strategies.



GEORGE'S PASS



Compassionate & Personalized Care for the Autistic and Special Needs Pediatric Patient

Shelly Reyes BSN, RN, CPN

SCAN TO LEARN MORE



Patient and Family Preparation

A private tour is offered to the patient, to allow for exploration and assessment of the hospital. They are given practice items to prepare for the day of surgery. These items includes a patient gown, BP cuff, sat probe and surgical mask. A Social Story is provided to offer a step-by-step guide of what to expect the day of surgery. Parents are encouraged to review the book in the comfort of their own home.

Change in Process and Flow

When the patient arrives to the hospital, the goal is to minimize stressors, decrease sensory overload and partner with the parents to provide the best possible outcome. Patients are greeted at security and sent directly to a private room, lights are dimmed and monitor volume is turned down. Reduced exposure to busy waiting areas.

Toolboxes

Distraction items, sensory regulators, noise-canceling headphones, Virtual Reality and vein finders are accessible to all staff in pre-op to help provide an improved experience.



iDrive

Patients who meet the criteria may drive a car into the OR. Remote-controlled by our nurses, the child can drive into surgery which provides a fun alternative to a gurney and decreasing need of sedation often needed during separation.




Parent Presence at Induction

Parents may be present during induction of anesthesia. Parental presence when a patient falls asleep decreases anxiety and greatly reduces the need for sedation.

Quiet Room

When the child is transported to the Recovery Room the parent is reunited with the patient in a private room to wake-up. The child is placed in a quiet room which minimizes sensory stimulation and providing a calm environment when waking up.







George's Pass is a program that improves care and eases the stress of the hospital experience for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The program is provided by a multidisciplinary team that uses evidence-based strategies to evaluate and address a child's individualized needs.

THE PROGRAM OFFERS

- **Intake Form**
Filled out by the parent or guardian to inform staff of any accommodations needed to care for them
- **Private Tour**
Helps the child and family get acquainted with the hospital setting
- **Homework Practice Kit**
Helps children become familiar with hospital items
- **Social Stories**
Use short pictures and simple language to prepare the child for new settings or activities
- **Visual Schedules and Contingency Boards**
Uses pictures to create a sequence of steps and provide reinforcement when a task is completed
- **Communication Support**
Pictures, symbols, or written words that help the child in communicating more effectively with care providers
- **Aids for Sensory Regulation**
Bubble, light up, fidget, fidget toys and other preferred items that help the child in overcome "sensory overload"
- **Fun Games and iPads**
Used for communication, distraction and redirecting behavior
- **Staff is Educated and Compassionate**
The George's Pass program is overseen by Board-Certified Behavior Analysts who provide education and training to all members of our team.

To learn more about the patient care benefits of George's Pass, please email Shelly Reyes, BSN, RN, CPN, at Valley Children's Hospital - sreyes@valleychildrens.org.



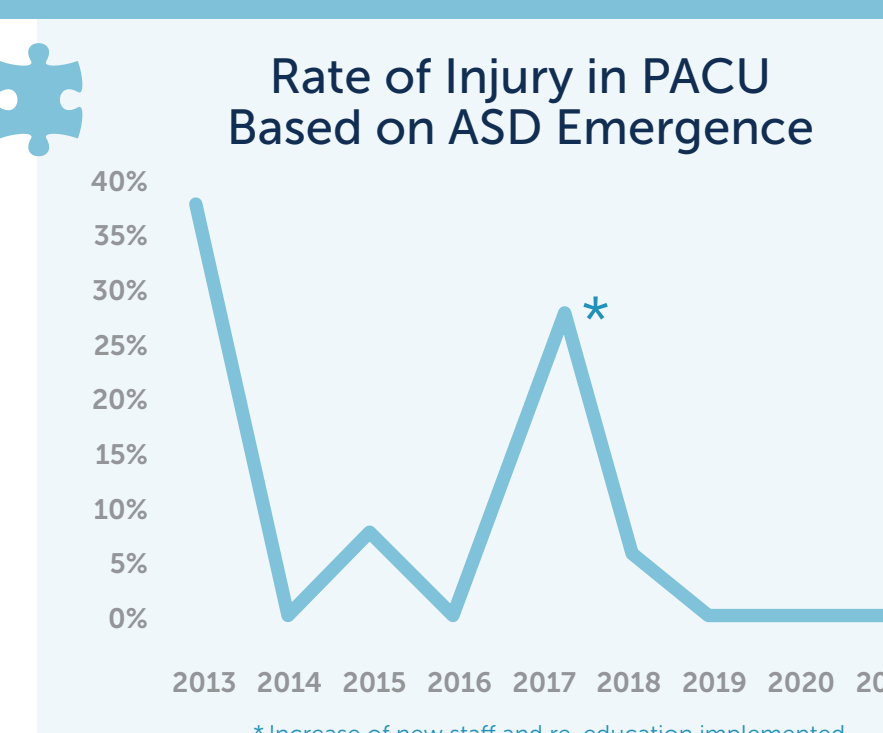
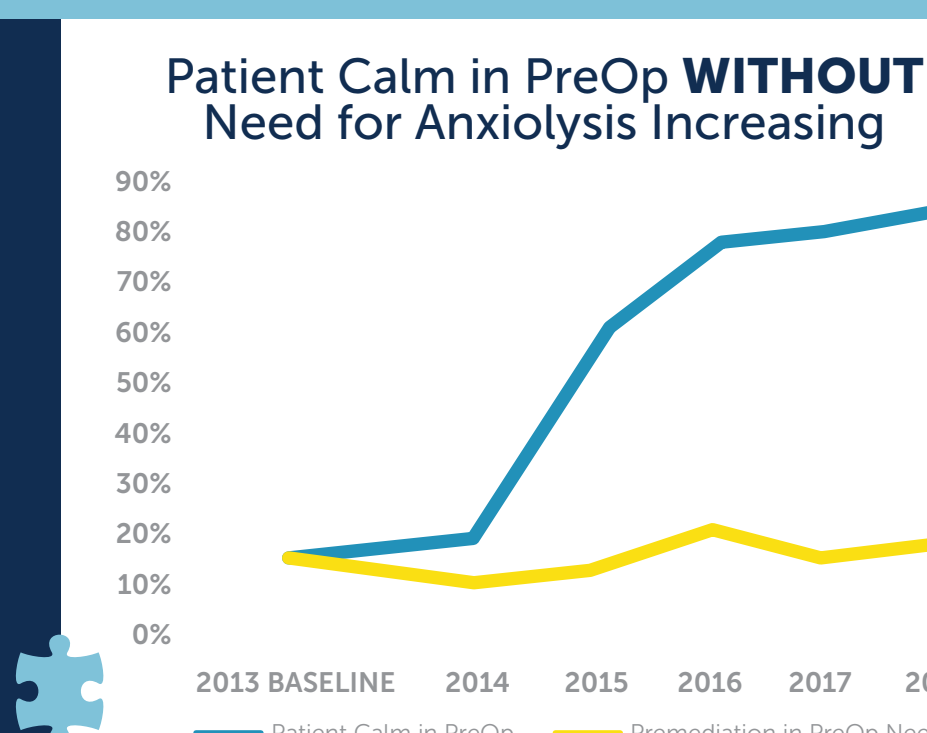
Caring for a patient with autism spectrum disorder or special needs is an opportunity to improve care and give every child our best.

— Shelly Reyes, BSN, RN, CPN

Outcomes

175% INCREASE

Level of RN Comfort in Caring for Autistic Patients
(Post Implementation in 2014)



George's Pass reduces a child's exposure to bright lights and beeping monitors, permits parents' presence at induction of anesthesia, and ensures patients awaken post-op in a quiet, darkened room with their parents at bedside.

George's Pass utilizes kid-friendly technology. Children engage in hands-on activities with iPads that entertain and distract, virtual reality goggles divert eyes from intravenous needles, and projections screens on walls or ceilings will limit the need for sedation.

George's Pass has positively impacted the community through at the Run with the Heroes 5k and also lead to the adoption of George's Pass at the local zoo.