Would Having a Roving/Floater Perioperative Preparation (POP) Nurse Address the Patient Care Concerns for Inpatient Surgeries on Sunday? We Think So.

The Short Stay Unit and Medical Procedure Unit Staff Schedule Taskforce had its fifth meeting Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015.

Those present included Surgical Services Director Kim Raney, Thom Rowe, our Unit’s manager, Debbie Avakian from human resources and Candace Konstad, Gretchen Baller, Shane Fierling, Megan Faris, Suzanne Smith and Peg Doggett. (Jacqueline Susi was not able to attend but Katie Willmoth sat in.) Rob Nosse from the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) was also present.

There had been five solutions discussed at our prior meeting in early December. The one that we think best addresses the problem and our goal noted on page 2, and the one we think will be the most satisfying to nurses on our unit is having a Perioperative Preparation (POP) nurse who works on Sundays and goes onto the inpatient floors and works with those nurses to make sure their patients are ready.

We believe Kim and Thom think this could work as well, but we need to discuss it in more detail and make sure it is operationally possible.

For example:
- Would we take this approach on Saturday and allow this to be an actual position or would we assign someone to only do this on Sunday?
- Do we need to do this on holidays?
- How would we back that person up when there is an ill call or a vacation?

Hopefully we can work these details out in a way that makes this option viable. We think we can.

Our next meeting has not yet been confirmed. Stay tuned.

As a reminder, the group is trying to address the concerns around inpatient surgical patients who await their surgical or medical procedure and are “parked” in front of nursing desks in the operating room when the short stay unit is closed.

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or when patients wait for extended periods of time in the short stay unit where nursing care is not progressed.

While not stated in the problem statement we are focused on addressing this concern on Sundays and holidays.

Our Goal: To provide excellent, patient care and safety for every surgical service’s inpatient who comes to the Medical Center for a surgical or medical procedure

This means:

- Consistent handovers that include: consent, the pre-procedure check list being completed, reviewing abnormal labs and medication concerns, and so forth.
- Effective communication from the time the case is scheduled to the time when the case goes back to the inpatient unit
- Patient arrives prepared for surgery or the medical procedure
- There is an appropriate place for the patient to wait while the right caregiver in attendance
- There is minimal delay to the operating room
- 30 minute wait in the holding area
- Reliable timely patient transport to the area.

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Lead by Example: Ethical Nursing Practice

April 11-13, 2016

Convention Schedule

Monday, April 11 - Half-day Staffing Workshop (1-5 p.m.)
Tuesday, April 12 - ONA Nurse Continuing Education Day
Wednesday, April 13 - ONA House of Delegates