Perioperative Solutions: Improving First Case Start Times

A large community hospital located in the Midwestern United States was experiencing operating room capacity issues and looking for ways to improve throughput to drive volume growth. The hospital was adding two operating rooms to its existing suite of ten, and the hospital senior leadership team was concerned that existing inefficiencies would carry over to the new operating rooms. Through its Perioperative Solutions engagement with Accelero, the hospital was seeking to identify opportunities and implement solutions to address capacity issues in the existing operating rooms, and maximize the addition of two new rooms.

Upon conducting the initial interviews, onsite observations, and data findings, the Perioperative Solutions team quickly determined that improving first case start time was central to creating additional capacity.

DEVELOPING INFRASTRUCTURE, LEVERAGING DATA AND CONDUCTING OBSERVATIONS

Leveraging Accelero’s proprietary business intelligence tool designed to collect data and identify performance variances, a perioperative team comprised of surgeons, anesthesia, perioperative leadership and operating room staff met to review data findings and identify initial opportunities. During the first week, Accelero’s Perioperative Solutions team led an initiative to observe first case on-time start and document key findings.

IMPLEMENTING SOLUTIONS

Based on the data and observation findings, it was evident that the perioperative department lacked a collective first case on-time start definition and policy. The perioperative team worked collaboratively to make a new policy that was ratified by the hospital’s operations committee. The following lists key terms that were included in the first case on-time start policy:

- Surgeon and anesthesia criteria for reporting on-time.
- Patient reminders for reporting on-time
- Room preparation to receive patient on-time.
- Required H&P information and signatures.

ACHIEVING RESULTS

The Perioperative Solutions engagement produced immediate results in first case on-time starts. In fact, the hospital advanced its performance to an industry recognized 70% median, and was working towards a 95% benchmark goal.

![First Case On-Time Starts Chart]

Accelero Health Partners, a subsidiary of Zimmer Holdings, Inc.
117 VIP Drive, Suite 320 | Wexford, PA 15090
Phone: 724-799-8210 | www.accelerohealth.com
© 2015 Accelero Health Partners