



PERIOPERATIVE HANDOFF TOOLKIT

By Johns Hopkins Medicine

The Johns Hopkins Perioperative Handoff Toolkit provides a step-by-step approach to conducting a patient transfer from the time that the patient arrives at the PACU or ICU from the operating room.

Components of the popular Perioperative Handoff Toolkit include:

- ▲ The 5-step Perioperative Protocol
- ▲ 18-minute Protocol Training Video
- ▲ A User Manual including:
 - An introduction about the Science of Safety, from Peter Pronovost, MD, PhD, FCCM
 - The scientific basis for the handoff
 - The 5-step process for creating buy-in for the handoff protocol
 - Checklists for verbal reporting (surgical, anesthesiology, and nursing providers)

The Perioperative Handoff Toolkit fullfills all of the Joint Commission handoff criteria.

The Perioperative Handoff toolkit standardizes an easy- to-follow 5-step protocol that provides for limited interruptions through its organized

structure; describes a process that is reproducible and independent of the particular patient or providers involved, allowing for widespread applicability; defines an essential core team of handoff providers and directs their bedside presence, allowing opportunities for direct, interactive, real-time communication and face-to-face question clarification; provides, through anticipatory guidance, for the transfer of updated information on patient status with discussion of the most likely changes to that status; and provides a distinct start and end to the handoff, eliminating any ambiguity in designation of actual patient care transfer between the delivering and accepting teams.

The Toolkit also provides a 5-step process for securing hospital buy-in to adapt the protocol.

WHAT HAS ITS IMPACT BEEN AT JOHNS HOPKINS

Piloted for patient transfers from the OR to the CSICU at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in 2009, its use spread across our hospital, and it is currently being used to conduct all adult peri-operative handoffs from the OR to the intensive care units (ICUs) and recovery room areas (PACU). The core tool has improved

{PERIOPERATIVE SAFETY: Surgery is an area of high impact to hospitals—and high potential harm to patients. Communication breakdowns and poor teamwork can lead to harmful medical errors, inefficient operating rooms, longer hospital stays and increased costs.}

information sharing during handoffs, increased satisfaction of the receiving team, and decreased distractions during a very vulnerable point in a patient's care (in-press data). In addition, it has subjectively leveled the playing field between the various practitioners who participate because there is a preset expectation of opportunities for asking questions and clarifying issues at the completion of the verbal report.

Outcomes of implementing the Perioperative Handoff Toolkit include:

- ▲ Standardizes patient handoff between the surgical and recovery teams
- ▲ Improves hospital safety
- ▲ Allows for direct, interactive, real-time communication and face-to-face question clarification
- ▲ Defines an essential core team of handoff providers and directs their bedside presence
- ▲ Adaptable to fit the specific requirements of your hospital and your particular peri-procedural setting



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