Indications and Outcomes of OR circulators continually leaving the room during surgery

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Abstract

Surgical inefficiencies are a major concern for hospitals due to the fact that they can cause extended OR time, increased costs, and a decrease in patient safety. The primary goal of this research is to understand how operating room circulators leaving the room continuously for missing or needed items can be minimized. In turn, that will increase the efficiency and safety of the surgery. The research will identify and evaluate factors that influence the duration of time in which the circulator is out of the room and how to improve them. The AORN Position Statement states that one perioperative RN circulator should be present during the patient's "entire experience." Also, in an article about effective case carts, it states that "an efficient case cart system can reduce turnover time, possibly allowing more procedures to be performed." The research method used is primary a quantitative method done in the field setting. OR circulator nurses would document each time they were out of the room for a specific surgery, and why they were leaving. The length of the surgery, as well as any complication during surgery would be recorded. Lastly, the surgeon's satisfaction with having his tools in a timely matter would be documented in a short survey afterwards. The research will be analyzed by whether there was a post implementation reduction in 1) missing items from the surgical case cart, 2) number of times the circulator leaves the room and (3) surgery length, along with increased surgeon satisfaction.