Improving Efficiency and Staff Satisfaction in the Operating Room Through a Revised Block Scheduling Framework at a Rural Community Hospital

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ECU Health Quality Improvement Symposium
January 31, 2024
Background/Introduction

Considerations for Community Hospital Improvement

• Small Shifts in Operating Room Demand = Large Impact on Efficiency and Workload
• Workload Efficiencies and Pressure for Improvement Has Limits

Aim Statement:
To improve ECU Health Beaufort OR block utilization above 75% and decrease after-hours cases by 10% while maintaining staff satisfaction by implementing a four-day- 10-hour operating schedule.

ECU Health Beaufort: A Campus of ECU Health Medical Center

• Five Operating Suites
• 3100 OR Cases Per Year
• Orthopedics, General Surgery, Ophthalmology, Urology, Ob/Gyn
• RN, MD, CRNA, RNFA, Surgical Tech, ORA, Housekeeping, Central Sterile
Methods

Pre-Implementation:
Survey of staff satisfaction and perceptions of anticipated change.
OR time data extracted and analyzed from EPIC

Improvement Implementation:
Block Scheduling Transition Began January 2023
Staffing Schedule Modified to Accommodate New Block Times

Post Implementation:
Post-Survey of staff
Extract and analyze pre and post OR time data
Results

**Perceptions of Adequate Nursing Staff (Positive Response)**
- 72%
- 92%

**Perceptions of Work-Life Balance (Positive Response)**
- 68%
- 79%

**Block Utilization**
- 71%
- 84%
Results

Overall Block Utilization
FY22

Oct FY22: 60%
Nov: 59%
Dec: 53%
Jan: 53%
Feb: 53%
Mar: 53%
Apr: 53%
May: 75%
June: 75%
July: 75%
Aug: 75%
Sept: 62%

Goal 75%

Overall Block Utilization
FY23

Oct FY23: 72%
Nov: 71%
Dec: 84%
Jan: 86%
Feb: 87%
Mar: 82%
Apr: 86%
May: 84%
June: 82%
July: 79%
Aug: 82%
Sept: 82%

FY 23 Overall Block Utilization
Goal 75%
Conclusion

EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS MUST CONSIDER THE PEOPLE INVOLVED

SOLUTIONS MUST LOOK BEYOND “WORK HARDER” OR “WORK FASTER”

CREATING CAPACITY FOR NEW OR EXPANDED SERVICES

DECREASED USE OF OVERTIME AND CALL TEAMS

IMPROVING WORK-LIFE BALANCE

DECREASED LABOR COSTS