Enhanced same day surgery admission for patient requiring pre-op imaging before surgery

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Keywords:
- lean
- same day surgery
- patient transfer

Introduction

Same day admission for patients requiring operation is now the standard for uncomplicated surgery that does not require pre-op in patient care. It still requires patient to be admitted early in the morning to the ward awaiting operation. For patients requiring pre-op imaging in radiology department just prior to surgery, it will require the patient to be admitted to the ward, and then transfer to the radiology department for the imaging, back to the ward and wait to be transferred to operating theatre for operation. The whole process is cumbersome and requires porter transfer of patient on wheelchair in lifts, back and forth from radiology and to the ward, resulting in wastage of time and man power.

Objectives

To lean the process of patient transfer to and from the radiology department and ward in return to save time and man power required for patient transfer.

Methodology

Patients with inpalpable breast lesions requiring surgical excision under general anesthesia are often performed under same day surgery protocol. They will require pre-op image localization from radiology just prior to operation. Instead of admitting patient to ward first, patient is asked to attend pre-op imaging at radiology department first, then admission to the ward after the localization. The time and man power required before and after this change is compared and reviewed.

Result

There is a significant decrease in time and man power required for patient transfer after applying the lean management, resulting in more efficient transfer of patient to operating theatre and hence more efficient use of theatre time. As a result, there is increase in patient satisfaction.