



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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An Observation Study on Staff Compliance in Performing Team Briefing and Debriefing

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Introduction

Starting from 3 October 2012, briefing and debriefing has been implemented in all surgical specialties in PYNEH for all elective surgeries, except emergency operations and surgeries done under local anaesthesia. Expanded surgical safety checklists are used in briefing and debriefing to ensure surgical team members have thorough understanding on the procedures before surgery.

Objectives

As a continuous quality improvement measure in enhancing patient's safety, we are conducting this observation study to: 1. evaluate the compliance in performing team briefing and debriefing in Operating Rooms (ORs) 2. review the need for full implementation of team briefing and debriefing in Operating Rooms (ORs)

Methodology

First In-patients for elective surgeries performed at the main theatres (C8-C11) during the period of 13 April 2015 to 13 May 2015 were studied. 5 elective cases with the involvement of anaesthetists, surgeons and operating room nurses were randomly selected from the following specialties: Dept of ENT, Dept of Ophthalmology, Dept of Neurosurgery, Dept of O&G, Dept of O&T and Dept of Surgery. A structured checklist was prepared to check staff's compliance on the briefing and debriefing and whether proper documentation on briefing and debriefing was made accordingly. Analysis was made based on how the staff used the Surgical Safety Checklist as a reminder to guide briefing-debriefing process. Compliance rate was calculated as the number of cases using the briefing and debriefing tool divided by the total number of studied cases.

Result

From 13 April 2015 to 13 May 2015, surveys (n=30) were conducted to evaluate the staff compliance when they were performing team briefing and debriefing. The results

regarding team briefing, team debriefing and documentation were summarized as below: Compliance rate of Team briefing : 83% Compliance rate of Team debriefing : 95% Compliance rate on Documentation : 97% Overall compliance rate : 88% The WHO checklist together with team briefing and debriefing were established in our theatres in October 2012. This extended checklist adds a safety net against adverse patient outcomes and errors. It is mandatory in elective surgery and the compliance is monitored. In general, our staff achieved 88% overall compliance in conducting Team briefing and debriefing and our observations suggest it has revolutionized operating theatre communication in improving patient safety. Although the checklist is useful as a reminder to guide the briefing and debriefing process but if performed incorrectly; it can digress from the original intention to the checklist. That is, we are "merely ticking the box rather than conducting a real check". Therefore, reinforcing theatre staff about the original focus of the checklist should be done regularly, i.e. a team tool to ensure patient safety by facilitating team work and communications, rather than a compliance document. Besides, it would be much appreciated if a member would supplement the information when it is omitted in Team briefing and debriefing to reduce the potential flaw. Briefing and debriefing is a process where the whole surgical team prepares and plans together before the operation and reviews the outcome afterwards. It breaks down communication barriers between nurses, surgeons and anaesthetists creating a better working environment.