Background

There are multiple pre-operative checklists in the electronic health record (EHR) at our institution used by the Emergency department (ED), Interventional radiology (IR), inpatient (IP) nursing and the Perioperative department (PTU). Some fields in each checklist are not shared so information is not visible to the departments that utilize each checklist. Nurses have to search all over the EHR for the information they need to ensure that their patient is ready for their procedure or surgery. Merging the multiple checklists into one standardized checklist was done by a bedside nurse as a Nursing Informatics Fellowship project.

Methods

Nursing Informaticist (NI) involved in development and implementation

A task force consisting of perioperative clinical nurses as well as representatives from the leadership team validated the contents of the new standardized checklist. It took two meetings to review each field to ensure that all the elements on the checklist met the perioperative standards of care.

• Each checklist that existed in the EHR was presented to the group
• Each row in each checklist was reviewed and validated by the task force
• Real time changes made to create the standardized checklist
• Final checklist was presented to the leadership team of each department for approval

Excel Spreadsheet – used to create the standardized checklist by tracking real time changes based on the task force’s recommendations

Results / Outcomes

• Creation of the standardized checklist known as the “golden checklist”
• Golden checklist used by all departments who send patients for surgery or procedure
• Some fields are hidden from other departments who do not need the information
• Data that needs to be shared populates across the fields
• Entire nursing staff trained to use the checklist
• Reduced the of number of pre-op checklists from 4 to 1
• Nurses able to easily find the information needed to prepare the patient for surgery / procedure
• Eliminated unnecessary content and decreased the amount of time needed to complete the checklist

Purpose

Optimize and standardize the pre-operative checklist that existed at our institution’s electronic health record to ensure that all standards of care for our perioperative patients are met when they are sent for their procedure or surgery.