PDSA Cycle: Proceeding with Elective Same Day Admissions Without Prior Inpatient Bed Confirmation

Dear Perioperative Staff and Physicians,

We are excited to announce a new Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) Cycle at the **Halifax Infirmary** site. This PDSA Cycle will allow elective same day admissions to proceed without a confirmed inpatient bed prior to the start of the case.

Starting Thursday June 6, 2024, the PDSA cycle will operate as follows for elective same day admissions:

1. All cases requiring a ward, ICU or MICU bed will proceed as scheduled, irrespective of whether a bed has been confirmed or not, except in the following circumstances:
    - If a patient requiring a ward bed was held overnight in the PACU, first cases may proceed as planned without a confirmed bed. However, subsequent cases must be reviewed between C3 and perioperative departments to determine if the case can proceed.
2. Surgical cases requiring cardiovascular care beds will continue to follow existing decision processes.

Why are we implementing this PDSA?

The goal of this PDSA is to study the effects of this policy on patient flow and throughput. We believe that this change will enhance our efficiency, reduce delays, and improve the overall patient experience.

The reasons for initiating this PDSA are:

- Few cases are cancelled due to the unavailability of an inpatient bed.
- Delays starting a procedure due to the unavailability of a bed occur regularly, at times causing cancellations at the end of the day due to ‘not enough elective time’.
- The C3 initiative has been successful in ensuring patient flow and consistently finding beds.

How will we measure the impact?

To accurately assess the impact of this PDSA, we will regularly monitor the following key metrics:

- The number and duration of instances when an OR is on hold due to PACU backlog.
- The number and duration of instances when PACU is holding patients ready for transfer to a ward, ICU, or IMCU bed that is not available.
- The number of times the PACU is kept open for part or all night to accommodate an elective patient without a bed.

The metrics above will be reviewed weekly over the course of the 2-month PDSA Cycle period. Staff and physician feedback will be collected and reviewed throughout the PDSA cycle as part of study phase of the PDSA cycle.

We acknowledge that this is a significant change, and we assure you that we will closely monitor its impact. We value your feedback and will incorporate it throughout the pilot project.

If you have any questions or concerns, please connect with your manager, Department/Division Head or Megan Arsenault (OR Efficiency Project Manager, Megan.Arsenault@nshealth.ca).

We appreciate your cooperation and dedication to improving patient care at our facility.

Best regards,

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