To: Central Zone Perioperative Staff, Surgeons, and Anesthetists

Subject: PDSA Cycle: First Case Wait List Room Scheduling

Dear Perioperative Staff and Physicians,

We are excited to announce a new Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) Cycle at the **QEII and DGH** sites. This PDSA Cycle will ensure that the first case in a wait list room is scheduled in advance.

Starting Thursday June 6, 2024, the PDSA cycle will operate as follows for wait list rooms:

1. The day prior to the planned wait list room, the on-call surgeon will work with the OR Charge Nurse to identify a suitable patient to be booked as the first case the following morning. This will be completed by:
    - 1800 at QEII sites Halifax Infirmary and Victoria General Hospital
    - 1300 at Dartmouth General Hospital
2. Changes to the first case of a wait list room cannot be changed once booked, except under extenuating circumstances as outlined in the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

Why are we implementing this PDSA?

The goal of this PDSA is to study the impact of scheduling the first case in a wait list room in advance on on-time starts, OR overruns 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:

- When the first case of a wait list room is not known in advance, the perioperative team may not be able to prepare the OR and the patient in a timely fashion, causing delays.
- A change to the planned order of the wait list room can cause delays in starting the first case as the perioperative team may need to set up the OR for a different procedure and prepare the patient, causing delays.

How will we measure the impact?

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

- Percentage of first cases in wait list rooms that start within 5 minutes of the scheduled start time.
- Percentage of wait list rooms when the scheduled case is changed the day of surgery.
- Percentage of wait list rooms when an elective patient is scheduled as the first wait list room case.
- Percentage of wait list rooms when the scheduled case is cancelled due to a more urgent case.
- Percentage of wait list rooms when no case is scheduled the day prior.
- Percentage of wait list rooms when the wait list room runs overtime when an elective case was booked as the first case.

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.