Improving Operating Room First Case On-Time Starts Using the Epic© Snapboard Shared Calendar System

Jennifer Rowland, SN  
*School of Nursing, Sam Houston State University School of Nursing, The Woodlands, TX, USA*
Danita Batiste, BSN, RN, CNOR  
*Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital, Houston, TX, USA*
Mona Cockerham, PhD, RN, CPHQ  
*School of Nursing, Sam Houston State University, The Woodlands, TX, USA*

**Purpose:** To determine the effects of an EPIC Snapboard Shared Calendar System in enhancing communication between operating room (OR) and AOD nurses to improve on-time OR first case starts.

**Problem Statement:** For OR start times, how does adding OR nurse assignments to an EPIC Snapboard shared calendar for daily morning assignments compared to a paper copy of the nurse assignment sheet, affect the number of minutes the first 10 OR case start times are delayed within a 7 week time frame?

**Background:** On-time OR first case start times are important in maintaining daily on-time surgeries throughout the day. Increasing communication among OR and perioperative nurses may help to improve first-case OR on-time starts.

**Approach:** Individualized training was provided to the OR charge nurse designee on how to use the EPIC Snapboard Shared Calendar feature by inputting the names of the OR nurses assigned to patients the morning of the assignments. Data were collected using an OR On-Time Start Tracker that was developed as a way of recording the key elements involved in measuring pre-operative processes. These items included: date, patient ID, scheduled start time, AOD time ready, surgeon arrival time, time H&P completed, anesthesia ready time, OR nurse ready time, and time out of the AOD to surgery (recorded as on time, delayed in minutes, or early in minutes). If delayed, the reason for the delay was recorded in the tracker for each case.

**Results:** On-time first case starts increased by 30%, delays in first case starts decreased 23% , and test delays such as pre-operative x-rays (KUB) decreased by 7%. Average number of minutes for on-time first case starts increased by a difference of 1.03 minutes as compared to the average number of minutes for first case start delays which decreased by 15.02 minutes. Average number of minutes healthcare professionals had completed their pre-operative procedures prior to rolling out of AOD for first case starts increased by 4.33 minutes (OR nurses), increased by 12.55 minutes (Anesthesiologists), increased by 7.88 minutes (Surgeons), and increased by 4.9 minutes (AOD nurses). First-case start time delays were highest for surgeon delays (66%), test delays(14%), patient late arrivals (13%), H&P completion, (7%).

**Discussion/Implication to practice:** SnapBoard in EPIC is a helpful communication tool in the operating room to enhance communication between perioperative and operative nurses.
Keywords:
EPIC EHR, OR First Case Start Times and Snapboard Shared Calendar

References:


Abstract Summary:
On-time OR first case start times are important in maintaining on-time surgeries. This project used an EPIC Snapboard shared calendar system as a way of increasing communication among nurses and staff involved in pre-operative patient care. Results indicate this shared calendar system improves the number of minutes delayed.

Content Outline:
Purpose: To determine the effects of an EPIC Snapboard Shared Calendar System in enhancing communication between OR and AOD nurses to improve on-time OR first case starts.
Problem Statement: For operating room (OR) start times, how does adding OR nurse assignments to an EPIC Snapboard shared calendar for daily morning assignments compared to a paper copy of the nurse assignment sheet, affect the number of minutes the first 10 OR case start times are delayed within a 7 week time frame?
Background: On-time OR first case start times are important in maintaining daily on-time surgeries. Increasing communication among OR and perioperative nurses may help to improve first-case OR on-time starts.
**Approach:** Individualized training of OR charge nurse designee to input daily OR nurse assignments into EPIC Snapboard Shared Calendar feature each morning.

**Results:** On time first case starts improved by 30%, delays decreased by 23%. Average ready times increased by 1.03 minutes and first case start delays decreased by 15.02 minutes.

**Discussion/Implication to practice:** SnapBoard in EPIC is a helpful communication tool in the operating room to enhance communication between perioperative and operative nurses.

First Primary Presenting Author

**Primary Presenting Author**

Jennifer Rowland, SN
Sam Houston State University School of Nursing
School of Nursing
BSN Student
The Woodlands TX
USA

**Professional Experience:** I am a student nurse in a BSN program who completed this project as part of my Leadership Clinical Rotation at Sam Houston State University.

**Author Summary:** I am a student nurse in a BSN program who completed this project as part of my Leadership Clinical Rotation at Sam Houston State University.

Second Secondary Presenting Author

**Corresponding Secondary Presenting Author**

Danita Batiste, BSN, RN, CNOR
Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital
OR Nurse Manager
Houston TX
USA

**Professional Experience:** Danita Batiste is the OR Nurse Manager at Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital in Houston, Texas. She is the preceptor for Jennifer Rowland, the student nurse who completed this project.

**Author Summary:** Danita Batiste is the OR Nurse Manager at Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital in Houston, Texas. She is the preceptor for Jennifer Rowland, the student nurse who completed this project.

Third Secondary Presenting Author

**Corresponding Secondary Presenting Author**

Mona Cockerham, PhD, RN, CPHQ
Sam Houston State University
School of Nursing
Clinical Assistant Professor
The Woodlands TX
USA

**Professional Experience:** Dr. Cockerham is a professor in the School of Nursing at Sam Houston State University. She is also the clinical instructor for Jennifer Rowland, the student who completed this poster.
Author Summary: Dr. Cockerham is a professor in the School of Nursing at Sam Houston State University. She is also the clinical instructor for Jennifer Rowland, the student who completed this poster.