



IMPROVING PAEDIATRIC PREASSESSMENT

BACKGROUND:

When preparing a child for elective surgery, on the morning of the operation, nursing staff undertake admission paper work including measuring weight and height and administration of any medication.

Children are also seen by both the surgeon and the anaesthetist as well as having time with a play specialist who will use "play" as a key tool to rehearse for the theatre experience. This play preparation includes photos, play and videos.

The play team on Oak Ward felt that this admission period was too busy and often chaotic and invariably they did not get to do this essential play preparation which led to incidents of children panicking in the anaesthetic room, negatively impacting on the child, parents and staff.

A recent patient's survey had also demonstrated that only 48% of patients had knowledge and understanding of the general anaesthetic and surgery, prior to their surgery.

AIM: For 100% of children on Oak Ward have 'play preparation' prior to their elective surgery

MEASURES:

The team set out to measure the percentage of elective patients prepared by surgery play team as well as the parent and patient experience

THE CHANGES:

Initially the team introduced a preparation video for paediatric surgery which has received over 250,000 views online.



Children's Surgery at St. Peter's Hospital

The team also decided to test the introduction of a pre-assessment clinic which would include allocated 30 min slots allowing nursing staff to document pre-admission information such as height and weight, and the play team dedicated time to prepare the child for surgery.

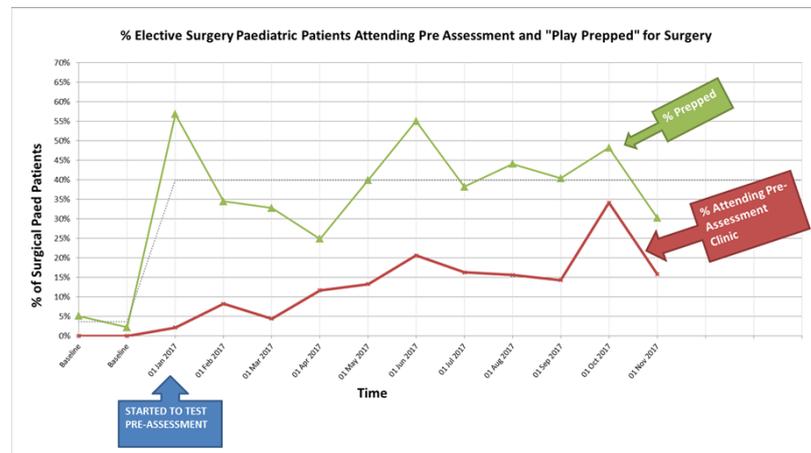
The process for booking and running of clinics was designed in a way that used no additional resources and was completely controlled by the paediatric team. Initially this was tested on one elective surgery list on one day and gradually increased to all surgical lists with a general invitation to all children.



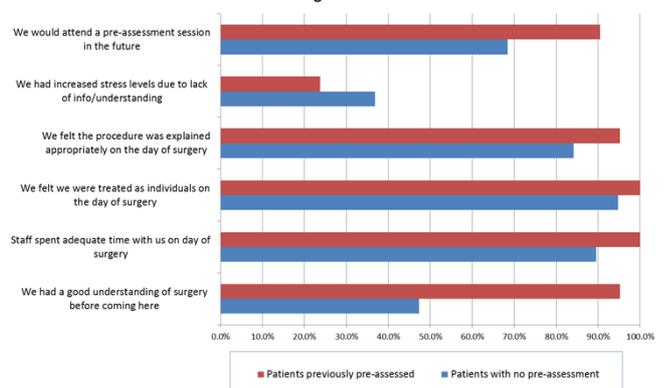
OUTCOMES:

In addition to the preparation video being made available to 100% patients/families:

- Invitations for pre-assessment were sent to 100% of patients having elective paediatric surgery
- 95% of patients having had pre-assessment reporting having good understanding of the surgery prior to the procedure. This compared to 47% of patients that did not have pre-assessment
- Increasing numbers of patients prepped for surgery from a baseline median of 16% to 40%



Patient (Parent) On The Day of Surgery Questionnaire August 2016



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