

REASON WHY?

Currently Theatres are faced with patients who are ill prepared for Theatres from all ward areas. The impact of this includes risk to patients, wasted theatre time and utilisation, postponement of surgeries and impact on theatre staff morale due to constant problem solving and safety concerns due to resolving poorly prepared patients.



To improve the patient safety and reduce delays by 20% from ward to theatre, by 31st August 2023.

PLAN

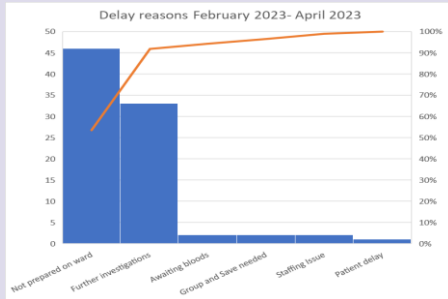
The team carried out an initial audit to identify areas that result in the delay of a patient arriving in theatre from the Surgical Assessment Unit (SAU).

Datix review highlighted two areas of focus:

- Unavailability of essential documentation
- Communication between theatres and SAU

Ideas to trial:

- **Bleep**
- **Theatre Folder**



DO

Bleep- Given to a designated SAU member of staff each shift. Theatre staff are to bleep SAU and give 20 minutes notice before sending for a patient. This should give SAU staff time to ensure the patient is ready before the ODO arrives to collect the patient.

Theatre Folder- All patients booked for a theatre procedure will be allocated a specific folder so that ward staff can ensure all the necessary documentation is ready for patient transfer to theatre.

- Theatre Check list for items to be included in red folders:**
- Theatre check list
 - Consent signed by patient / 2 doctor consent (if applicable)
 - MRSA/SRI/CR (if applicable)
 - Drug card
 - RESPECT form (if applicable)
 - Fluid Balance Charts
- Check before patient leaves the ward!**
- Correct colour wrist band on the patient
 - That the ward band has the correct patient details and readable
 - Patient has had a VIE completed
 - TEDS and theatre gown on ready to go
 - Check Group and save has been taken (rip blood bank 3506 (out of hours bleep 512))
 - HCGS (if applicable)
 - All patients to have Pressure areas checked and document before leaving the ward

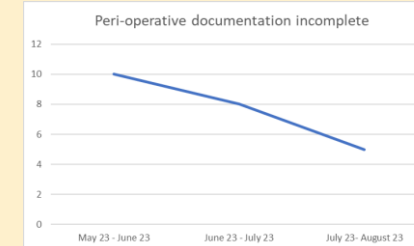
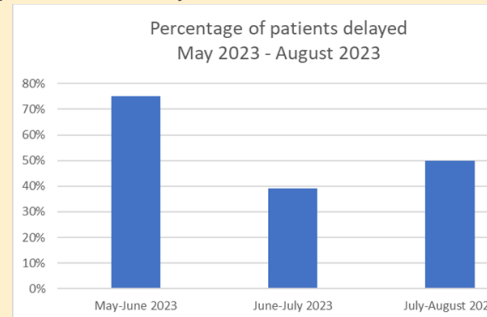
STUDY

Delays have reduced significantly during June-July 2023 (from 75% to 39%) following the PDSA cycle commencing 16/05/2023.

There was a slight increase in delays between July-August 2023 due to:

- Theatre and ward staff adjusting to a new way of working i.e. remembering to communicate with the bleep.
- SAU have had a new group of new substantive starters to the ward so there will be a period of adjustment for learning the new processes.

There was a statistically significant reduction in incomplete peri-operative documentation and patients not ready on SAU.



ACT

The theatre folder and bleep are working well SAU is ADOPTING the theatre folder and bleep

The teams will continue to monitor over 30,60,90 days.

Challenges included: Staffing challenges mean that the coordinator is frequently in the staffing numbers and therefore not able to take the bleep so Theatres then cannot communicate with SAU effectively.

Newly employed staff had to be educated on the process and this took some time. Further work will need to be carried out with agency colleagues to ensure they are aware of the process.