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CLINICAL UPDATE

ISSUE 13: IN-SERVICE BRIEF

Strategies for Improving Efficiency and Infection Control During Operating Room Turnover

The Operating Room (O.R.) environment plays a major role in Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs). Correct and efficient cleaning of the O.R. prevents patient complications such as surgical site infection (SSIs).

SSIs can cause significant patient morbidity, patient mortality, and burden to healthcare systems with immense costs that are not reimbursable.

Did you know?

1.7 million cases of HAIs are reported each year in the U.S. alone. **20%** of all HAIs are SSIs [1,2]

NEGATIVE IMPACT OF DELAYS IN SURGICAL CARE

Hospital Administrators | **Staff Members** | **Patients**

Delays in delivery of care can cause negative financial impact on the organization, as well as dissatisfaction among patients and healthcare workers (HCWs).[3]

O.R. TURNOVER TIME (TOT) EFFECTIVENESS DRIVES MEASURABLE IMPROVEMENTS IN:

Clinical Outcomes | **Financial Outcomes** | **Organizational Outcomes**

O.R. downtime negatively affects return on investment (ROI), overall productivity and reimbursement.
Therefore, it is imperative TOT be efficient and have a standardized process since proficiencies can impact surgeons, staff and ultimately, patients.

Cost per O.R. minute averages **$46**[4]

STRATEGIES TO MAXIMIZE O.R. EFFICIENCY:

- Training and education on best room turnover and cleaning practices
- Standardized processes with checks and balances
- Cleaning checklist for guidance on overall procedures and role definition
- Use of custom, pre-assembled kits to include disposable, antimicrobial linens, patient safety straps, mop heads, replacement waste bags, fluid solidifier and other ancillary components (e.g., as patient transfer sheets, positioners, etc.) that support patient care
- Defined roles and responsibilities for all personnel involved in the room turnover process
- Proper application of room turnover products according to manufacturer instructions and processes/procedures in compliance with AORN, AHE and other related standards for O.R. turnover
- Routine point-prevalence surveys to measure ongoing compliance with standards/goals, identify gaps and potential improvement opportunities and monitor for long-term sustainability

One important opportunity for improving infection control and quality of care, while streamlining cleaning procedures, is the use of customizable disposable room turnover kits.

Turnover kits help improve operational efficiency in your hospital and offer cost efficiency for many procedures. Infection control products focused on room turnover can help reduce O.R. TOT, save money on costly equipment replacements, and ensure every patient receives high-quality care in a standard, controlled setting.

DISPOSABLE KITS CAN:

- **Provide consistent and efficient turnover time**
- **Improve infection control and fluid management**
- **Help support patient skin integrity**
- **Help minimize the risk of cross-contamination by using low-lint sheets**

References:
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3. Harders M, Malangoni MA, Weight S, Sidhu T. Improving operating room efficiency through process redesign. *Surgery*. 2006;140(4):509-516.
4. Smith T, Evans J, Moriel K, et al. The cost of OR time is $46.04 per minute. J Orthop Bus. 2022; 2(4): 10-13.

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