

Abstract

Title: Anesthesia Production System Standardization: An Action Plan to Reduce Costs and Increase Anesthesia Services Efficiency

Submitted by: Samuel J. Thibodeaux, MSN, CRNA

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Project Chairpersons: Edward Thompson, PhD; JoAnn Eland, PhD; and Robert From, DO

Purposes: The purpose of this project was to evaluate and implement a plan to reduce costs and improve efficiency in a hospital's anesthesia production system. This plan focuses on reducing: anesthesia provider/support staff workload; material and labor costs; and pharmaceutical expenditures.

Data Sources: Electronic database searches were conducted, references from cited papers were evaluated, and pertinent textbooks were reviewed. Workflow and time-motion data were obtained from observations of all staff during daily activities. Anesthesia supply and pharmaceutical inventories and usage data were collected.

Conclusions: Three main improvement areas were identified and targeted for cost reduction and efficiency improvement. These areas included: anesthesia supplies; provider/technician workflow; and pharmaceuticals. Inventories were reorganized and reduced to cut costs and improve workflow. Costly drug formulations were eliminated, pharmaceutical vendors were standardized, and participation in drug pricing programs was implemented.

Implications for Practice: Implications for practice include enhanced anesthesia provider and technician efficiency through improved workflow, translating to reduced labor costs and increased productivity. Inventory reduction strategies resulted in reduced carrying costs and waste minimization. Reducing the number of medications and improving storage within the

anesthesia workstation have the potential to reduce the incidence of drug errors. Standardization to less costly medication formulations and vendors result in reduced acquisition costs.