

Observers in the Operating Room

The Problem

Need for a collaborative approach for managing observers in the Operating Room at BIDMC.

Aim/Goal

Ensure that all observers are pre-authorized before gaining entrance to Operating Room in an effort to control spread of infection and protect patient privacy.

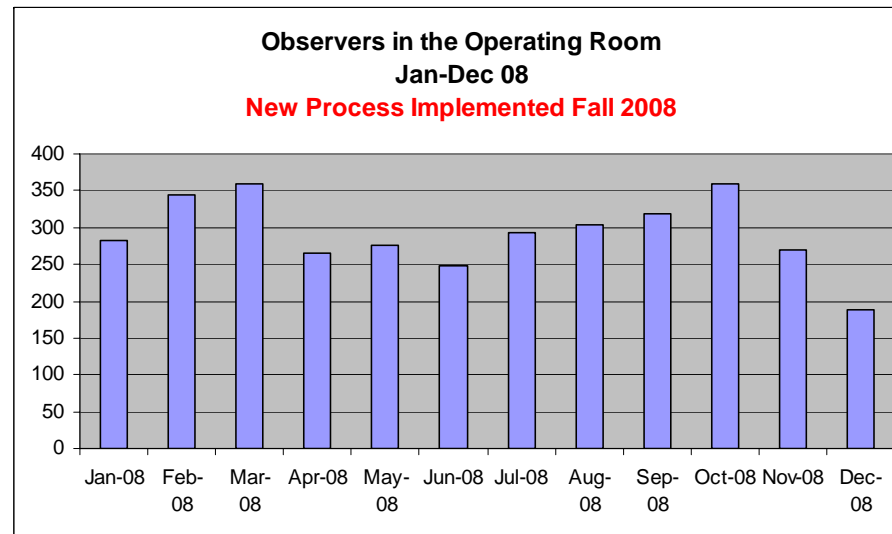
The Team

- OREC
- The O.R. Scheduling Office
- Peri-Operative Services
- Graduate Medical Education Office
- Shapiro Institute for Medical Education and Research
- Department of Surgery

The Interventions

- Authorization process developed by OREC for external observers
- Lead scheduler audits O.R. journals to validate authorization status of observers.
- Creation of a central database for authorized observers
- Alert system implemented to manage those who present to Operating Room without prior approval
- Partnerships established between sponsoring surgeons, O.R. Scheduling Office and O.R. Staff
- Vendors contacted in Fall 2008 for credential update
- Mandatory Observer Training Course offered by unit-based educators

The Results/Progress to Date



Lessons Learned

- There is improved communications regarding observers to the operating room between team members; cross checking and sharing of resources is now a common practice
- There is a heightened awareness by O.R. Scheduling/OR staff regarding observers to BIDMC's operating rooms

Next Steps/What Should Happen Next:

- O.R. Scheduling will continue to monitor operating room observers with review of operative journals
- Continued outreach and communication to surgeon offices regarding observer policy with emphasis on achieving authorizations prior to observer visits to Operating Room
- Continued research aimed at securing outside agency to credential all vendors for Operating Room access



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For More Information Contact

Dorothy Sarno, R.N.,
Ann Embrescia, & O.R. Scheduling Team