

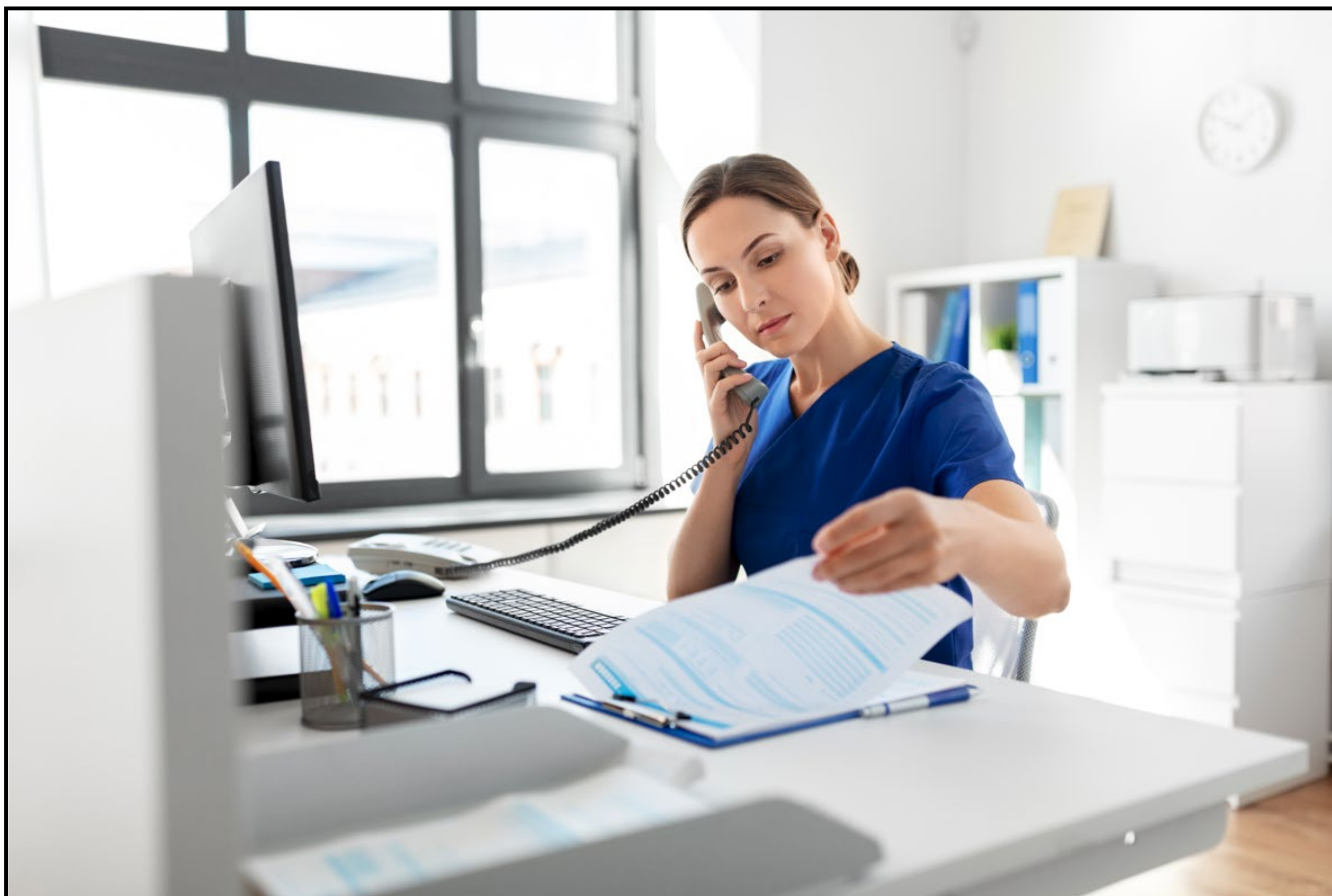
# The Development of a Multidisciplinary Team to Increase Compliance with Pre-Operative Checklists and to Improve Safe Patient Handoffs

## BACKGROUND

The importance of change-of-clinical-phase handoffs in maintaining patient has been well studied in literature. Change-of-phase handoff is an essential source of data used in the surveillance and care of the perioperative patient, as well as in identifying and preventing complications. An effective handoff also contributes to collegial, collaborative, and productive clinical communication among care team members. It ensures that all healthcare team members work collaboratively to provide high quality care to the patient.

## PURPOSE

This quality improvement project aimed to increase compliance in completing the pre-operative checklists for all inpatients requiring surgical intervention to minimize the risk of errors, complications, and adverse events.



## METHODS

A retrospective analysis was undertaken to determine compliance with completing an EPIC-based pre-operative checklist. A multidisciplinary team consisting of surgeons, anesthesia providers, intensive care nursing leadership, Med/Surg floor leadership, Emergency Department, Trauma unit staff, an advance practice extern, and members of the perioperative team were assembled to develop a concise, practical pre-operative checklist to promote compliance and ensure buy-in of the key stakeholders involved in each phase of perioperative care. Post implementation analysis determines improvement in compliance.

## RESULTS

1. To streamline the pre-operative process at every phase of care: Intensive Care Unit (ICU)/Floor → pre-operative → intraoperative → post-operative → ICU/Floor.
2. Reduce late surgical and procedural case starts.
3. Ensure compliance with patient-centered CMS-ascribed peri-operative and Surgical Care Improvement Project (SCIP) criteria, decreasing peri-operative infection and complication risks.
4. Fostering a collaborative, collegial, safe handoff process among all members of healthcare team involved.

## CONCLUSIONS

A standardized pre-operative electronic form of handoff communication developed by key stakeholders involved in phase of peri-operative care establishes a handoff routine that reduces communication-related patient care errors and fosters a positive nursing environment.

## REFERENCES

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