



Background

- Having a standardized process for sensory patients coming in for surgery helps them anticipate and cope with the disruption to their daily routine.
- Phoenix Children's did not have a standard process for these patients within each department or across perioperative locations.
- This led to poor outcomes for the patient, a lack of continuity of care, and patient safety concerns.

Objective

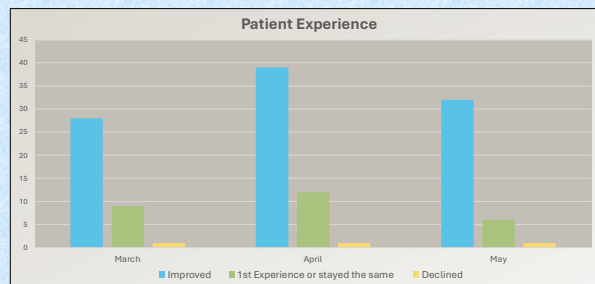
- To create a process for patients with sensory disorders to help improve and standardize their experience in the perioperative setting.
- Create a plan among parents and surgical team that meets each patient's specific needs to decrease safety concerns.
- To improve staff's awareness of each patient's specific needs and improve continuity of care.

Implementation

- A group of perioperative nurses, an anesthesiologist, and child life specialists collaborated to create a pathway that would work for all Peri-Op locations.
- Tools such as a handoff form and magnet for outside the patient's room were created to help notify staff of the patient's participation in the pathway.
- Education was presented to all perioperative staff and admitting/guest services on their role in the pathway.
- Parent feedback forms were distributed to families for their input on the pathway.

Results

After implementation of the Perioperative Sensory Pathway, **patients and families reported their experience improved by 86%.**



Parent Feedback

"We have never experienced this level of comfort and support, not only our son, but for us as parents too!"

"This was the best experience we have ever had! We loved the sensory room."



The Sensory Pathway implementation increased the staff's comfort in advocating for their patients by **100%.**

Pathway

Prior to arrival

- Parents provide details regarding child's specific sensory needs to preoperative phone RN.
- This information is passed on to preop team and placed on the sensory handoff form.
- Patients' involvement in the pathway is communicated to admitting and guest services.

Upon arrival/Preop

- The patient is expedited through admitting and waiting areas.
- Preop team follows parent directions for obtaining vitals and sensory room is offered.
- Information on the handoff form is verified with the parent.
- Plan for the transition from Preop to OR is discussed between surgical team and parents.
- Basic discharge education and education on oral airways is given to parents.

PACU

- Parents are brought to PACU as soon as anesthesia handoff is completed.
- If approved by anesthesia, patient can discharge without PO intake.

Conclusions

- Implementation of the Perioperative Sensory Pathway helped improve the overall procedural experience for patients with sensory disorders
- Staff's comfortability in advocating and caring for these patients increased.

Contact



Sensory Processing Disorder Handoff



Information about me

How I communicate/my baseline:

Favorite Toy/Music/Characters:

My Triggers:

I cope best with:

You can help me calm down by:

Pre-op RN Checklist

- ☐ Place magnet on Pre-Op door
- ☐ Discuss plan with Anesthesiologist
- ☐ Complete Handoff form with family
- ☐ Complete Anesthesia DC Instructions and Document
- ☐ Are parents comfortable with Oral airway in PACU? Yes No

References

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- Baranek, G. T., David, F. J., Poe, M. D., Stone, W. L., & Watson, L. B. (2000). Sensory experiences questionnaire: Discriminating sensory features in young children with autism, developmental delays, and typical development. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 47(6), 591-601. <http://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-7610.2005.01546.x>