

Preop Observation

must list white J out before observing

Preop was different from the other units I got to work in. It was more hands on and fast paced, while med-surg and specialized units like labor and delivery were slow paced. By 1330, I had already seen five patients. The floor was running even before I got up to the unit, and all the health care providers were on their feet going around caring patients. No one took a break as everyone was seriously involved in providing the best patient care. Preop mainly focused on providing comfort by informing the patient of the procedure and prepping the patient for the procedure. I got to learn how to run a preop unit. From making calls to receive patients to sending them for surgery. I got to put in three IVs and do six IV priming. Greeted my patients, took vitals, put on pneumatic compression devices and most important of all made sure they were informed of the procedure and send them relaxed to the OR.

There was no "time out" performed in preop and the nurse said they only do it during any procedure being held in preop prior to surgery. But there were no any procedures scheduled and it is mainly done in the OR. It is important to perform time-out as it gives everyone involved in the procedure a pause to check the patient, site and procedure being performed thereby promoting safety.

The preop nurses had a checklist to go over before they hand over the patient to the OR nurses. Firstly, they used patient identifiers as we had a lot of outpatient compared to inpatient. As I mentioned earlier, since it is a fast pace unit, one should be very careful identifying the patient. Secondly, made sure if the patient had allergies, dentures, glasses, contacts, hearing aids (you want them to leave it on so that they can communicate), pacemakers, stimulators, insulin pumps, defibrillator. Also, check if he or she is NPO (most surgeries require to be on NPO 6-8 hours or more prior to surgery). As per protocol for procedure, a nurse makes necessary