



**The Impact of a Dedicated Anaesthesia Resource
Nurse Team on the Anaesthesia
Preadmission Processes for Elective Surgery
in a Tertiary Teaching Hospital**

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Anaesthesia Resource Nurses
July 2010

Austin Health

- Major tertiary hospital
- 400 acute beds
- 17 surgical specialities
- Austin campus: 12 ORs, 2 endoscopy, 2 procedure rooms & external sites
- Repat campus: The Surgery Centre with 4 ORs & 1 endoscopy & 1 procedure rooms
- Majority of elective patients are day of surgery admissions

Position Background

- Austin Health employs Two full time Anaesthesia Resource Nurses (ARN) in Anaesthesia Preadmission
- The first role commenced in Feb 2007 as a 6mth developmental role
- In August 2008 it became a permanent position
- The second ARN commenced in May 2009 as part of a DHS funded project
- In April this year, it too became a permanent position

Vision

- To establish a nursing presence in the anaesthesia preadmission process
- To enhance elective surgical and anaesthesia preadmission processes
- To improve efficiency in referral and feedback processes

Issues facing Anaesthesia Preadmission

- Lack of continuity in the anaesthesia preadmission process
- Lack of co-coordinated approach to anaesthesia preadmission clinic (PAC)
- Poor communication and exchange of information between anaesthesia and surgical units
- No main contact person for anaesthesia preadmission

Key changes implemented

- Improved communication between anaesthesia and surgical units
- Increased anaesthesia patient preadmission assessments
- Continuity in patient planning and follow up
- Support for staff in anaesthesia PAC
- Anaesthesia assessments at surgical PAC
- Implementation of Nurse Led PAC at TSC
- Advanced nursing practice
- Data collection

Anaesthesia Resource Nurse Role

1. Anaesthesia Preadmission Clinic at Austin campus
 - Consultant Anaesthetist + ARN ± Reg ± 2nd ARN
2. Nurse Led Preadmission Clinic at The Surgery Centre (Repat campus)
 - ARN + Liaison Nurse
3. Non-clinic workload
 - Patient follow ups
 - Data collection
 - Project work
 - Guideline development
4. Clinical workload
 - Anaesthesia and recovery nursing

Anaesthesia Assessment

- Patient assessment includes cardiovascular, respiratory, other co-morbidities, airway assessment and past anaesthesia history
- Determine exercise tolerance / functional capacity
- Is the patient's medical condition optimized prior to surgery?
- Is there anything that can be done to significantly reduce the patient's risk factors?

2009/2010 Workload

- Total Caseload 22409
 - Austin Campus 16130
 - Surgery Centre 6279
- Elective Caseload (waiting list)
 - Austin Campus 11250
 - Surgery Centre 6279
- Excluding endoscopy
 - Austin Campus 8036
 - Surgery Centre 4665

2009/2010 Workload

Austin Campus

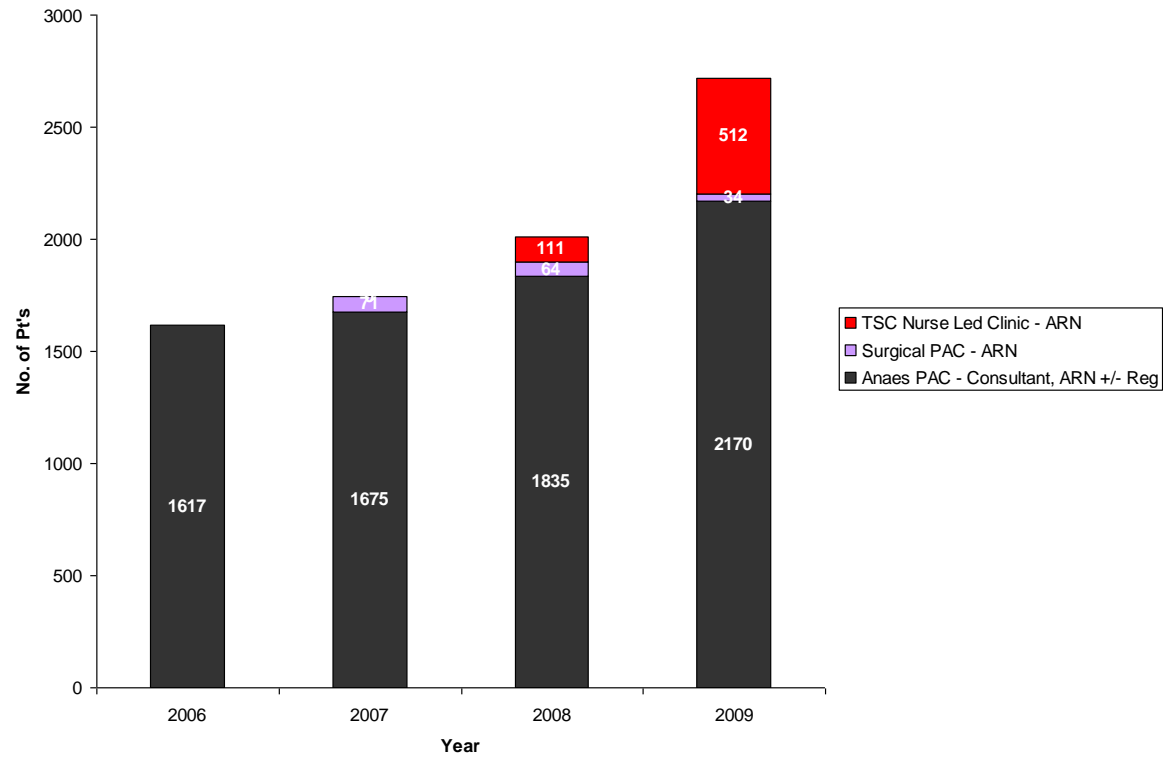
- 11250 Elective Cases
 - Estimated 70-75% attend surgical preadmission clinic
 - 2235 (20 %) attend anaesthesia preadmission clinic

Surgery Centre

- 4665 Elective Cases
 - 472 (10 %) attend surgical preadmission clinic
 - 510 (11%) attend nurse led anaesthesia preadmission clinic

Annual Data

No. of Pt's seen by the Perioperative Medical Team



Outcomes

- Increased capacity at clinic
- Faster access to clinic
- Less inappropriate referrals
- Improved communication
 - Surgical liaison nurses
 - Junior medical staff
 - Followup on results
 - GPs
- Development of Nurse Led Preadmission clinic at TSC

Key Objective

- Reduction in day of surgery cancellations
- Aim for zero day of surgery cancellations related to anaesthesia reasons
- Anaesthesia reasons can be defined as:
 - further investigations required
 - specialist opinion required

Anaesthesia related day of surgery cancellation data (Austin)

Year	3 month period	Cancellations
2008	July - September	0
2009	June - August	2
2010	January - March	1

Looking to the Future

- Continued meaningful data collection
- Ensure role sustainability
- Further development of protocols and education program
- Increase availability for clinics
- Develop vision for improved preadmission process
- Develop role into nurse practitioner position

Questions?

