The primary aim of this project is to improve the reliability of OR-ICU and OR-OR patient handoffs at Clements University Hospital by 50% by April 2016.

Background

- Poor handovers, or transfer-of-care (TOC), are a common cause of preventable harm. Clinical handovers in high-paced, high-stakes environments, such as operating rooms (ORs) and intensive care units (ICUs), are especially risky and error prone.

- Previous studies indicate that the standardization of the handoff process, to include communication-enhancing devices such as cognitive aids, have the potential to decrease medical-error rates by nearly a quarter (23%) and the occurrence of preventable adverse events by nearly a third (30%).

Opportunity

A more reliable OR-ICU and OR-OR TOC process will optimize care provision and reduce time spent on treating complications due to failure in communication.

Scope

The 2nd and 3rd floor operating rooms and 9th floor CVICU at UT Southwestern Clements University Hospital.

Aim

The primary aim of this project is to improve the reliability of OR-ICU and OR-OR patient handoffs at Clements University Hospital by 50% by April 2016.