

Electronic Medical Record Short-Cuts to Access Enhanced Recovery Pathway Details: Survey of Provider Preferences

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Background: Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) pathways must be readily available for reference in a variety of geographic locations for all team members including surgery, anesthesiology, and nursing staff. Many institutions utilize an online, secure database repository that requires the end user to access a website, login, and click through several screens to find pathway-specific information. This could lead to user frustration or confusion, which might decrease buy-in and compliance with pathway elements. We sought to eliminate these steps by integrating a link to the pathway repository within the electronic medical record home screen (Epic).

Methods: The Department of Anesthesiology utilizes SharePoint software, a commercially available platform, to store and share information. We introduced the SharePoint site in the Fall of 2015 as the central repository of all ERAS pathways being utilized at UNC Medical Center. 11 pathways have since been introduced to the perioperative experience (Preoperative, Intraoperative, and Postoperative). By creating a direct link to the SharePoint site from within Epic, there was no additional login required to reference ERAS resources (providers are already required to log into Epic using their UNC credentials). This created a universal, secure, and widely available platform for rapid access to pathway information. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of this SharePoint link integration within EPIC, we surveyed the end-users for their daily access preferences.

Results: An optional survey link was emailed to 80 Anesthesia Attendings, 89 CRNAs, and 61 Anesthesia Resident physicians. Responses to the usage survey (n=50) resulted in 86% of providers (n=42/50) accessed ERAS pathways via the Epic link, and 14% of providers (n=7/50) have accessed ERAS pathways exclusively via one of the other methods made available (i.e. departmental website link, paper copies of pathway, email sent to provider, iERAS app). 76% (n=38/50) stated that the ability to access the ERAS pathways via the Epic link was very helpful, 10% (n=5/50) stated that it was moderately helpful, and 8% (n=4/50) stated that it was a little helpful. Only 1 person responded that the link was not helpful at all.

Conclusion: The development of a link within Epic and the integration of SharePoint and EMR allows for universal access at the point of care. The decreased number of log-ons and clicks improve end user satisfaction and may improve compliance with pathway elements.