Integrated Care Programme for Patient Flow: Theatre Quality Improvement Programme (TQIP)

The Integrated Care Programme for Patient Flow aims to ensure that patients receive:

- the right care,
- by the right person,
- in the right place,
- at the right time.

The programme has been established to develop a strategic, whole system, standardised and shared approach of improving patient flow, focused on several key areas including the Theatre Quality Improvement Programme (TQIP).

TQIP has been designed to improve patient experience and outcomes by improving the safety, quality and reliability of care in operating theatres. Aimed at improving team performance and wellbeing, TQIP adds value and improves perioperative efficiency to enable a culture of continuous improvement.

An essential element of this programme is building a sustainable infrastructure and education programme to enable skill and knowledge transfer, including operations management and change management techniques and tools.

**ADVANCES IN CARE**

Highlights from Theatre Quality Improvement Programme at University Hospital Kerry in 2017. The programme has also been piloted in University Hospital Waterford (UHW), with two additional sites set to take part in the Theatre Quality Improvement Programme in 2018.

**University Hospital Kerry (UHK)**

Between May and December 2017, theatre start times improved from a 15% start-on-time rate to 80% start-on-time rate. This was supported by improving pre-operative assessment rates from 83% to 98% and by ensuring timely starts through avoiding unnecessary delays.

To further enhance the efficiency of theatre patient flow, the team highlighted the need to have lists agreed and submitted on time to allow for efficient preparation of theatres. Through a focused and systematic effort, the team improved from 50% on time in July to 100% compliance in December 2017.

Between September and October 2017, the number of patients at risk of post-surgery hypothermia dropped from 47% to 0%, improving patient experience and outcomes.

Through the implementation of theatre start times, pre-operative assessments and theatre lists, theatre utilisation increased from 66% to 76% between April 2017 and March 2018. With further implementation of theatre scheduling, the team aims to progress with increased improvement.

**Next Steps**

Following the success of these two pilot programmes and an extensive review process, two additional sites will take part in the Theatre Quality Improvement Programme in 2018.