

2024 Communication (Staffing)

Permission to print:	Yes
Category	Communication
Category 2	Staffing
Severity	Good Catch No Harm Incident
Duration of incident:	minutes
Description:	<p>Heparin given without notifying the paediatric perfusionist who had left theatre after the chest was safely opened. The perfusion coordinator entered theatre to be told to stop the pump so the lines could be divided and to pump up for aortic cannulation. The coordinator was an adult perfusionist – this was a paediatric procedure. The aorta was cannulated with no [post heparinisation] act running. The coordinator felt pressure to proceed. They then rang [the primary paediatric perfusionist] say what was going on. [The primary perfusionist] obviously was unimpressed when arrived to find what had unfolded. Team surgery couldn't see any issue with what had occurred as "the heparin was in". At this point the act was only 250 and rising.</p> <p>The surgical team surgery got decidedly hostile at signout when the primary perfusionist stated a PIRS2 had been filed and a [hospital incident report form] was ensuing, explaining the issue of the non paediatric credentialed perfusionists being pressured into this sort of thing. The surgeon suggested this should be deflected to a staff meeting but the primary perfusionist stated they were happy to let the hospital incident report run its course. This was not taken well.</p>
GOOD CATCH - what went well	That the heparin was actually in the patient
What could we do better	Closed loop communication and adherence to protocol.
Preventive actions	Better communication. Less pressure to proceed.
Type of incident:	Management
Timing of incident:	Post Prime PreCannulation
Hospital incident filed	Yes
Discussed with team:	Yes
Knowledge issue	Yes
Protocol issue	No
Rule issue	Yes
Skill issue	No
Team Issue	Yes
Management culture: Pressure to proceed:	Yes
Violation	Yes
Patient outcome variance	Nil
Commentary	<p>The report illustrates benefits of perfusionist attendance at signout where concerns relating to the case can be openly discussed. Preliminary data from upcoming survey of perfusion practice in Australia and New Zealand reveals less 12% of centres always attending, and more than 75% never attending signout. PIRS Ed.</p>