

STANDARDIZING PRE-OPERATIVE MEDICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR PATIENTS HAVING ELECTIVE SURGERIES

Daniel Di Marco, RN, BSc, BScN, MSc (eHealth); Jessica Ming Yi Jiang, MD, FRCPC

DESCRIPTION

Pre-operative medication instructions are a vital safety component for patients having elective surgeries as certain medication classes can lead to peri-operative complications, such as hemorrhages and hemodynamic disturbances.

The Surgical Pre-screening clinic (SPS) at Humber River Health assesses, educates, and prepares patients for upcoming elective surgeries. A gap analysis conducted identified a lack of standardized processes regarding changes to patient's medication instructions prior to surgery. This can lead to miscommunication and increase the risk of potential peri-operative complications or delays to surgery.

To improve the peri-operative experience, a formal standardized process was created for pre-operative medication instructions; Medication Education for Developing a Well-Informed Surgical Experience (MEDWISE).

OBJECTIVE

To improve communication for patients and the surgical team regarding patients' pre-operative medication instructions prior to elective surgeries.

ACTIONS TAKEN

- Collaborated with Anesthesia and Medicine Internists, Reinventing Patient Care Council, Surgical Program Leadership, Health Education Development and Health Information Services to develop a new standardized form for Anesthetists to use in SPS
- Developed Implementation Plan and new Workflow Process for stakeholders and evaluation measures (i.e., post-implementation surveys)
- Provided education on roles for stakeholders
- Created MEDWISE label to attach to patient's chart for tracking across the continuum of care

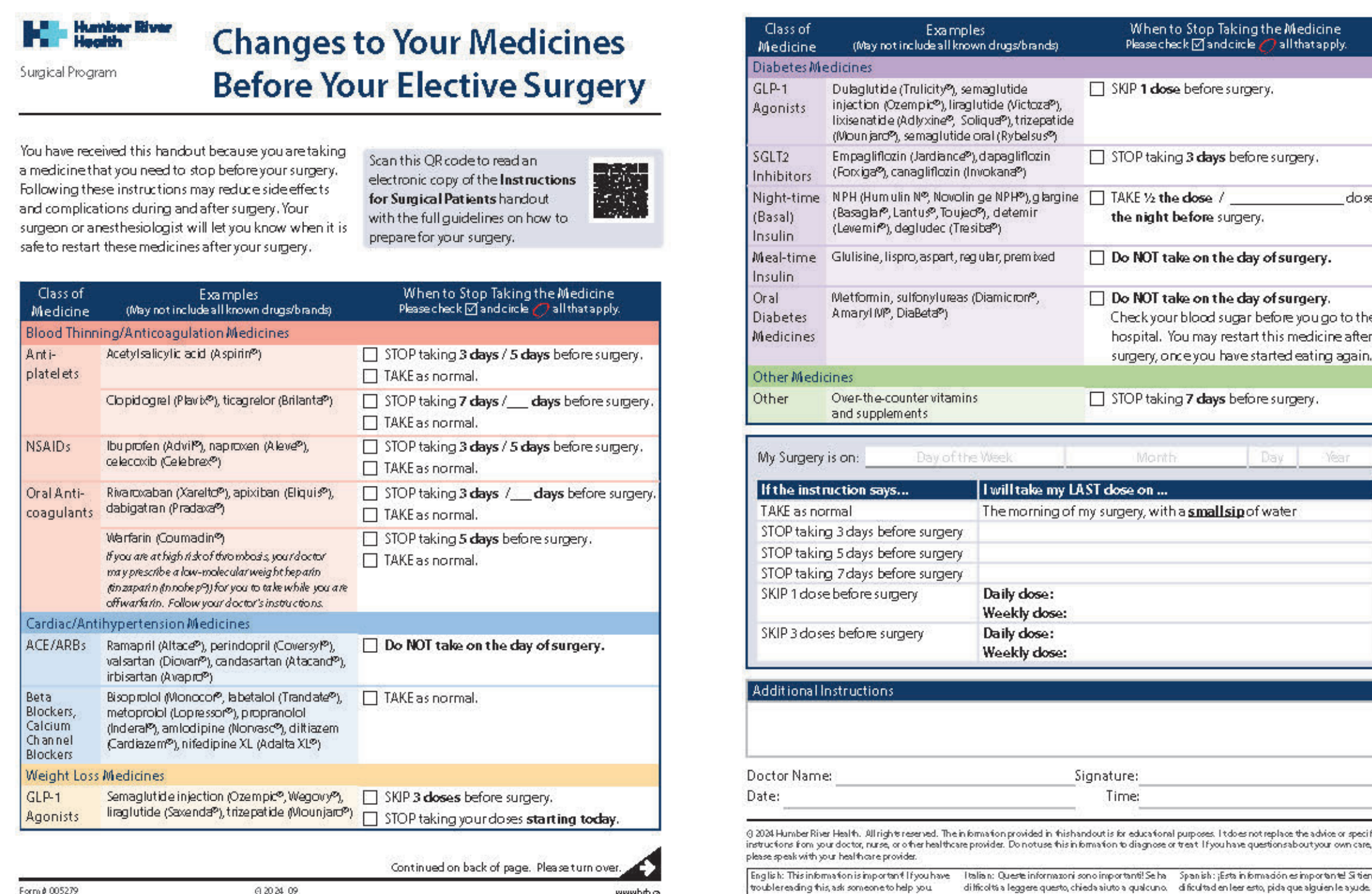


Figure 1. NEW standardized instructions form used by anaesthetist in SPS.

A new standardized form was created in conjunction with the Anaesthesia leads where certain medication classes including Anticoagulants/Anti-platelets, Antihypertension medications, Diabetic medications and GLPIAs that often require changes prior to a patient's surgery to prevent peri-operative complications.

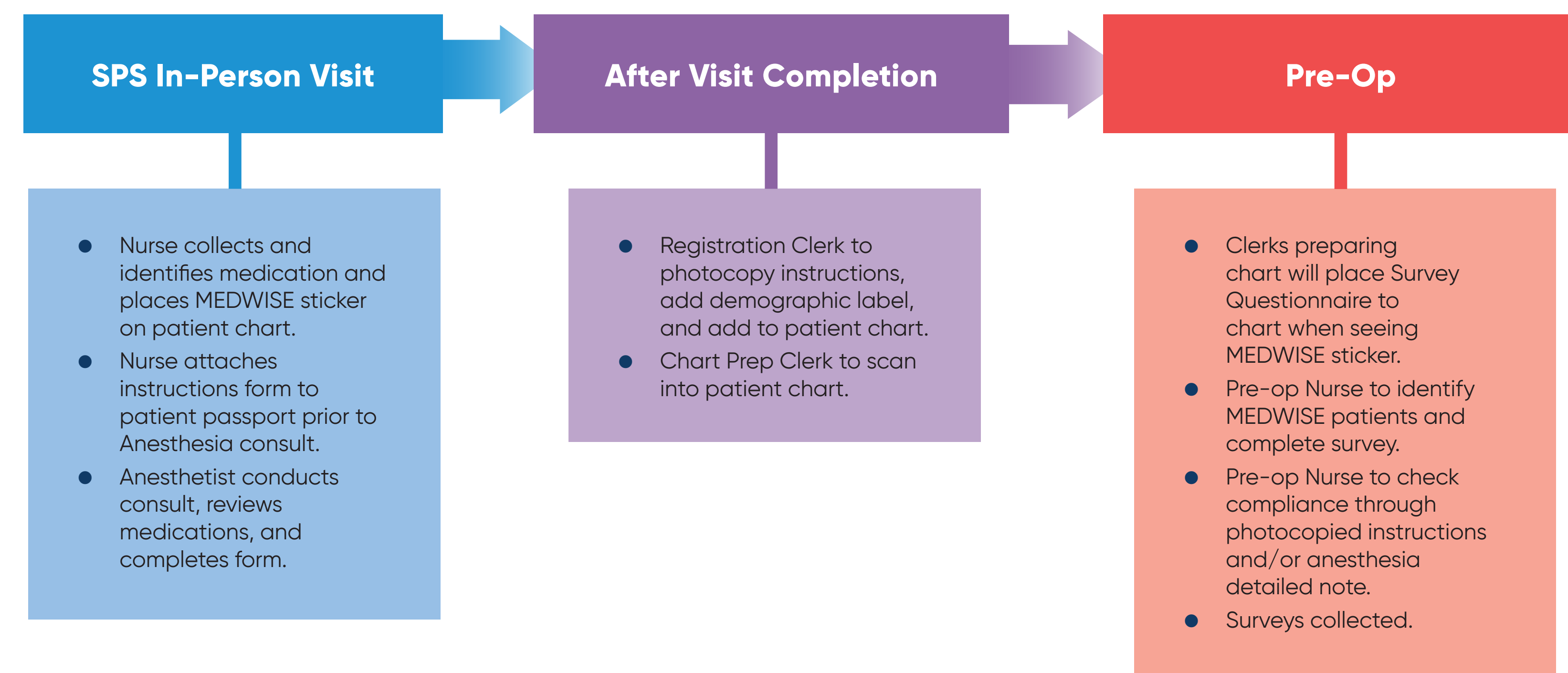


Figure 2. Standardized Workflow Process for Pre-op Medication Instructions.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Pilot Implementation started Oct 1st, 2024, and currently gathering evaluation measures:

- Process
 - Medication Instruction sheet compliance rate from Anesthesia
 - Scanned instruction sheet compliance in EMR
- Outcomes
 - Patient satisfaction
 - Anesthesia satisfaction
 - Compliance of instructions
- Balance
 - Cancelled surgeries
 - OR delay events

LESSONS LEARNED

Standardizing language and processes help improve communication between the surgical team and patient across their peri-operative journey.

This leads to consistency with medication management recommendations; contributing to lower surgical cancellation rates, and improves patient experience, preparedness prior to surgery, and patient outcomes.

Next steps:

- Expanding use to surgeons at their community clinics
- Improve accessibility through translated forms
- Digitizing elements to streamline process