Achieving Level 1 Children’s Hospital Certification at the University of North Carolina Childrens Hospital Surgical Services from the America College of Surgeons

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Introduction
The American College of Surgeons, ACS, and the Society of Pediatric Anesthesiology have joined to create a new accreditation process to ensure the highest quality care for children. The purpose of this program is to provide hospitals with the tools they need to improve the quality and safety of care for children. The program helps hospitals to identify areas for improvement and to develop plans to address them.

Materials and Methods

An initial pre-assessment of all pediatric and surgical aspects of the hospital was performed. The results of the pre-assessment were used to develop a plan of action.

Objectives

- Establish a multi-disciplinary team, including all departments involved in the care of children.
- Address the specific needs of the pediatric patient.
- Improve the quality and safety of care for children.

Results

- Hired a Children’s Surgical Program Manager, 10 FTE nurses and anesthesiologists
- Secured the support of the Pediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care Units
- Completed the 450-page questionnaire
- Secured a site visit (postponed due to COVID-19)
- New morbidity and mortality reporting system
- Monthly multidisciplinary quality and safety conferences
- 24/7 Operating rooms at the Children’s Hospital
- 24/7 Pediatric Pharmacy
- 24/7 Pediatric Intensive Care Unit

Conclusions

- Your team’s leadership is the key
- Constant reminders of our goal of improving patient care is critical
- Cultural change is difficult and takes time

References