



# Buy-In Is Key: A Journey to Becoming Smoke-Free

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## Description of Team

Members of the Perioperative Nursing Department including the Clinical Nurse Specialist for the Operating Room (OR), Director of Nursing for Perioperative Services, and the Vice President of Perioperative & Inpatient Nursing Services.

## Preparation & Planning

In 2019, a group of perioperative nurses, at a multi-site academic cancer center, conducted a systematic review of available evidence on the effects of surgical smoke. The group provided evidence-based recommendations to OR Nursing Leadership. Based on these recommendations, OR Nursing Leadership made a commitment to implement a surgical smoke evacuation program. To ensure the success of the program, OR Nursing Leadership decided to use varied educational strategies to gain the support of the Departments of Surgery, Anesthesia and Advanced Practice Providers, and the nursing staff. The goal for the initiative was engagement of all OR personnel in support of rolling-out the surgical smoke evacuation program.

Provided education on the effects of surgical smoke and benefits of smoke evacuation

Created a standard for the use of smoke evacuation during surgery

Elicited feedback regarding program improvement

As end users of the smoke evacuation pencils, surgeon colleagues were included in program decision making

## Assessment

- Identified areas for improvement included:
- ❖ Lack of knowledge of the harms of surgical smoke and the benefits of smoke evacuation.
  - ❖ Inappropriate usage of available smoke evacuation devices.

## Implementation

Initiated discussions about the importance of smoke evacuation during multidisciplinary leadership meetings

Conducted small group discussions for challenging personnel and service specialties

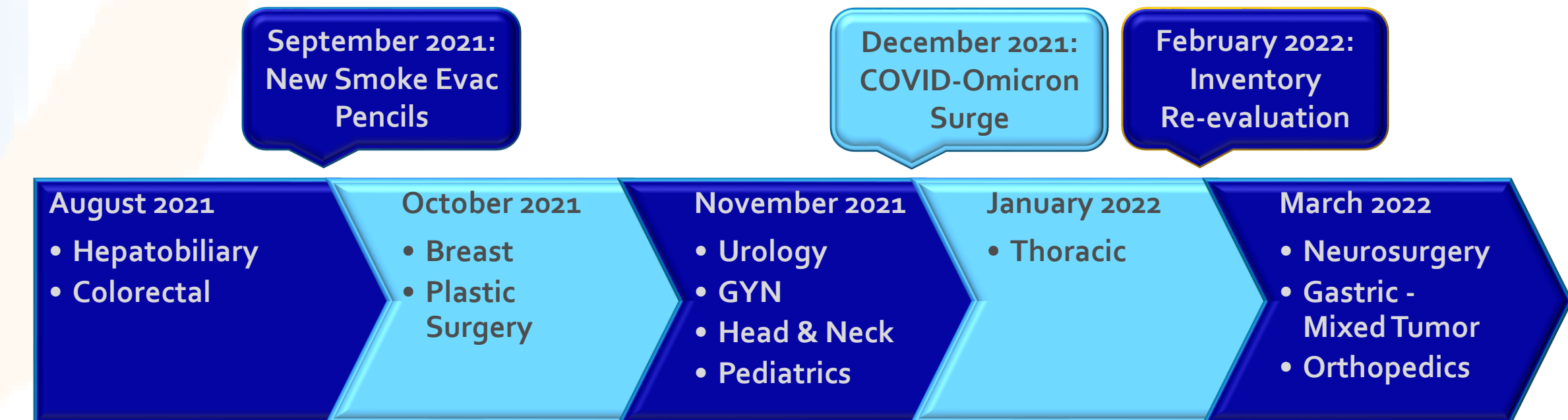
Provided education with staff in-servicing

Displayed information about the harm of surgical smoke and available smoke evacuation products on posters in staff break and locker rooms and on informational screens above scrub sinks

Product inventory was adjusted based on user feedback

## Outcomes

Multidisciplinary Perioperative Leadership agreed to a phased implementation of the surgical smoke evacuation program. Surgical smoke evacuation will be standard practice for all open procedures. A 6-month timeline for full implementation was set with a phased roll-out to new surgical specialties each month and removal of standard ESU pencil from all procedure packs. Timeline extended due to new product acquisition, the COVID-Omicron surge and inventory re-evaluation.



## Implications for Perioperative Nursing

Buy-in from all OR team members is key to the success of a surgical smoke evacuation program. Providing knowledge about the harms of surgical smoke and effectiveness of smoke evacuation is paramount to gaining support. Perioperative Nursing Leadership discovered that this strategy empowered OR team members to advocate for the use of smoke evacuation during surgery.

