



Five Warning Signs of Suboptimal Anesthesia Management:

How Even a Talented Clinical Team Can Put a Hospital at Risk

“Financial executives play an important role in making a business case for change... collaborations between financial and clinical leadership are key to anesthesia efficiency and effectiveness.”

Healthcare Financial Management, Driving Value in Anesthesia Services, June 2010

With the shortage of anesthesia providers, hospital executives are grateful when they have an anesthesia team in place. However, the challenges do not end with the signing of the contract. Success or failure depends on how well anesthesia management meets the hospital’s financial, administrative and quality performance goals.

A paradox exists in some hospitals where the anesthesia team has stellar clinical services, but doctors, nurses or executive team members are still complaining. A team that excels in the clinical aspect of anesthesiology can put a hospital at risk with the failure to address the business side of their services.

This white paper identifies key hospital management issues and five warning signs of suboptimal management of anesthesia services that expose a hospital to financial, administrative and quality performance risk.

Hospital Management Issues

Released in January 2010, the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) annual survey asked hospital executives to rank 13 issues in order of importance. For the fifth straight year, hospital executives listed financial challenges as their number one concern. Ranking second is healthcare reform.¹

At the time of the survey, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) was not final. The signing of PPACA created significant changes in the areas of quality improvement, financial administration and the delivery of care.

With the current industry trends and evolving regulations, hospital executives focus on three key management initiatives:

- Improving quality
- Managing costs and expenses
- Maximizing revenue and income

The team care model adopted by many hospitals integrates anesthesia services into the same management initiatives.

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