Background and Significance
- 43 million surgical interventions are performed per year in the U.S.
- All surgical interventions are associated with risk
- Clinical practice guidelines recommend a preoperative medical evaluation prior to any surgical intervention
- Preoperative medical evaluations identify and minimize risk
- In 2014, the average cost of an inpatient surgical intervention was $14,600, an increase from $11,800 in 2000
- Hospitals are ideally suited to coordinate important preoperative care
- Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants are integral members of Hospitalist teams
- Antiquated medical staff bylaws prohibit Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants to perform preoperative medical evaluations without physician supervision
- Preoperative medical evaluations are within the scope of practice for both Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants in the state of Maryland

Objectives
- Streamline preoperative medical evaluations for surgical candidates by reducing duplication of work
- Enable Advanced Practice Providers (APPs) to practice according to their full scope of practice
- Increase APP knowledge of preoperative medical evaluations

SHM Preoperative Evaluation Recommendations for Hospitalists
- Obtain a thorough history and review of the medical record
- Perform a targeted physical examination, focused on the cardiovascular and pulmonary systems
- Perform a directed and cost-effective diagnostic evaluation
- Utilize evidence-based algorithms and validated tools to assess and risk-stratify patients
- Make evidence-based recommendations to optimize outcomes in the perioperative period

Methodology
Setting:
Large rural multi-specialty healthcare system located on the Eastern Shore of Maryland with a 15 provider Hospitalist service including three Nurse Practitioners, 12 Physician Assistants, and 20 physicians providing 24/7 coverage to an average of 135 patients daily

APP Eligibility to Participate:
- 1 year of internal medicine/hospital medicine experience
- Completion of five Society of Hospital Medicine (SHM) preoperative evaluation modules: The Role of the Medical Consultant, Pulmonary Risk Management in the Perioperative Setting, Perioperative Medication Management, Perioperative Cardiac Risk Assessment, and Perioperative Cardiac Risk Management
- Completion of 10 consecutive preoperative medical evaluations with 100% agreement by an attending Hospitalist physician regarding the preoperative medical evaluation, i.e., no additional diagnostic testing or referrals are indicated
- Recommendation from the Hospitalist Medical Director and Lead APP

Results
January 2017–June 2017
- 12 APPs completed all five SHM preoperative evaluation modules
- 98 preoperative medical evaluations performed by 10 APPs
- 7 APP has been cleared to perform preoperative medical evaluations independently

Facilitators
- Progressive Medical Director supportive of APP practice
- Cohesive team of APPs and physicians
- Need for workflow efficiency
- Utilization of SHM modules and competencies

Barriers
- Staffing and Staffing Issues—too APPs on call for APPs
- High Census—focus shifted to admissions, rounding, and discharges

Nursing Implications
- Nurse Practitioners provide safe and effective care across the continuum, including for preoperative medical evaluations
- Nurse Practitioners should practice to the full extent of their training and licensure

Conclusions
- APPs are well-suited to lead interdisciplinary teams to improve preoperative care coordination
- APP preoperative decision making is consistent with that of their physician counterparts
- Preoperative medical evaluations performed by APPs can reduce duplication of work and increase Hospitalist work efficiency by 50%
- Appropriate research examining the cost of care, perioperative mortality and morbidity, and length of stay for patients evaluated preoperatively by APPs and physicians would further support APP independent practice

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Society of Hospital Medicine
www.hospitalmedicine.org

Current Preoperative Evaluation Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process</th>
<th>SHM Module</th>
<th>Recommendations for Perioperative Medical Management</th>
<th>Physician Provides Recommendations for Perioperative Medical Management</th>
<th>Final Decision for Preoperative Evaluation</th>
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Proposed Preoperative Evaluation Process

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Preoperative Medical Decision Making Among Advanced Practice Providers in a Rural Hospitalist Program: A Call for Increased Autonomy
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