Education on utilization of current EHR related features on Iconsent to decrease delays in procedural consents.
An APRN Quality and Safety committee inaugural project

Jason Silva, DNP, APRN, CRNA
Joanne Dalusung, DNP, APRN, AGACNP-BC, CCRN-K, VA-BC

Invasive procedures of patient care require securing a consent in a timely manner. Barriers to obtaining procedural consents cause delays in care and affect workflow. The APRN Quality and Safety Committee chose to address this issue for its inaugural project. QIAB approval for the project was obtained.

Baseline survey results
A multiple-choice survey was distributed to all MD Anderson APRN and PA employees via email to obtain baseline information on the perceived issue. The original survey was sent out on 8/10/22. A total of 143 survey questionnaires were completed from APRNs (51%) and PAs (49%) who participated in the survey. Majority of delays were related to computer issues. Unable to find a workstation on wheels (WOW) or a working signature pad were identified as the top computer issues. Language barrier second highest reason for delay. While most respondents indicated they were happy with the current consenting process, 74% thought there were opportunities for improvement.

Methods
A survey questionnaire was sent to the APPs from the Interventional Radiology and Acute Care Procedure Team. Both teams were chosen due to reported high volume of procedures requiring consents. The Lead group for the project decided to address the computer issues and create an intervention. The top computer issue was the signature pad was not working when provider attempted to obtain consent. A tip sheet was developed using Information Technology resources. An education on the available electronic health record mobile feature in the Iconsent tab was done using the APRN newsletter platform.

Intervention
Computer issues was an overarching theme noted from the survey. The group decided to address the computer issues and create an intervention. The mobile consent process is easy to use and a useful solution when encountering non-functioning bedside computers or signature pads.

Implications to practice
Delays in securing procedure consents are varied. One way to address computer issues related to consent delays is to educate and encourage providers to use the mobile consent feature embedded in the current electronic health record. The mobile consent process is easy to use and a useful solution when encountering non-functioning bedside computers or signature pads.

Recommendations and plans
A post intervention survey is planned when time allows. The group realizes varied reasons for delays in consent signing included in the survey but require a longer time for intervention and need for financial support. The QI project aimed to seek opportunities to address the issues related to the problem that can be resolved within the short period the group allotted for an inaugural project.