

LUNCH! A WEB APPLICATION TO COORDINATE ANESTHESIA PROVIDER LUNCH RELIEF

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Background: Everyone needs LUNCH! At a medical center with few anesthetizing locations, it should not be difficult to coordinate lunch relief to providers (i.e. residents, CRNA's, direct-providers). At a large tertiary care center with dozens of anesthetizing locations spread throughout multiple buildings, coordinating lunch relief is challenging. To address this, the LUNCH! application was created.

Methods: LUNCH! is an HTML based web application that functions both as a smartphone app (Figure 1) and a traditional desktop website (Figure 2). LUNCH! lists all of the anesthetizing locations in a two column layout, contains a call button for each location which rings the anesthesia providers line, and most importantly a button which toggles from HUNGRY to Fed when pressed. This information is relayed to the webserver and all LUNCH! application clients display the updated status. All locations are automatically reset to 'HUNGRY' daily at midnight.

Discussion: Prior to implementing this application at our institution, the team of residents (usually 4) responsible for providing lunch relief to anesthesia providers would need to repeatedly call or visit one-another in an operating room (OR) to cross-check and update their paper checklists throughout the afternoon. This was a very inefficient and distracting process. Additionally, a provider would often be asked multiple times by different lunch relief team members, with an interrupting phone call or visit to the OR, if they 'ate?' These redundant inquiries are distracting to the anesthesia provider and the surgical team, as well as unnecessarily increasing traffic into the OR's.

After deploying LUNCH! as a tool for the lunch relief team, the process is now streamlined and efficient. Redundant calls to anesthesia providers and multiple visits to OR's have been minimized. The need to call and track down other lunch relief team members to cross-check and update paper checklists is no longer necessary – everyone can see the real-time 'lunch' status of all anesthesia locations and act accordingly.

Conclusion: The LUNCH! application has provided practical benefits for coordinating lunch relief and a study is currently underway to quantify the improvements in efficiency and reduction in OR interference the application provides.



Figure 1

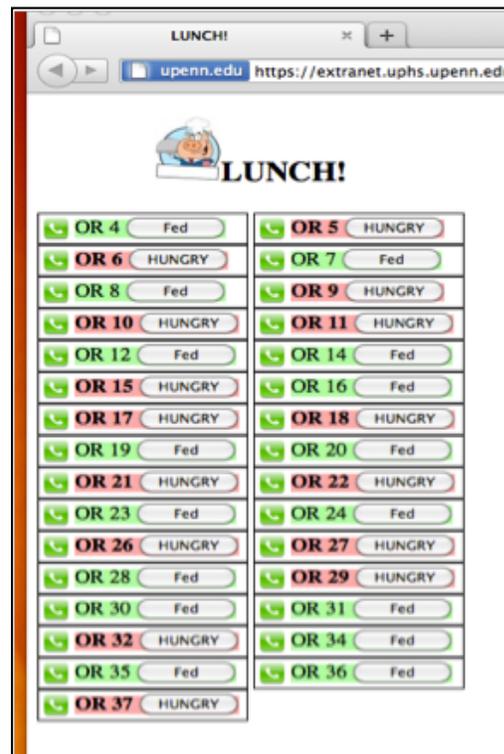


Figure 2