Perpetual Perianesthesia Care Unit (PACU) preparedness for JCAHO

**Purpose:** Sustaining readiness for The Joint Commission site visit is a priority. Finding ways to maintain the preparedness has been our goal for the PACU.

**Description:** The PACU must be compliant with many regulatory bodies and standards. The hospital patient safety department sends out monthly emails with questions to ask staff to heighten their awareness. The PACU wanted to be sure they were continually ready for any potential visit. The PACU leadership developed a daily checklist for staff to perform to heighten the importance and improve sustainability. The items on the checklist were environmental, documentation and observations on universal protocol, patient ID, medication administration and discharge teaching. The tool consists of a multitude of specific questions on each topic.

**Evaluation and Outcomes:** The department’s compliance with environmental readiness has increased by 50%. Staff are able to articulate what joint commission will look for during a site visit. They can speak to a variety of potential questions. Staff anxiety of when a site visit will occur has decreased due to the daily checks and percentage compliance.