PERIANESTHESIA ANNUAL COMPETENCY DAY AWAY
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Background:
PACU nurses recognized the importance of maintaining nursing competency in the low-volume, high-risk patient population. These areas include: caring for the pediatric patient, airway management, and malignant hyperthermia management.

Objectives:
To provide an educational opportunity and hands on activities for PACU nurses to maintain competency.

Process:
In 2005, a competency day away was organized in collaboration with the Department Chief of Anesthesia, CRNA, Pediatric Nurse Instructor, and expert PACU nurses. The day away covers critical contents including pediatric mock code, malignant hyperthermia management, and airway management. The learning experience is interactive with case scenarios and hands-on applications. Main PACU Phase I and II nurses were the initial target group. With the significant positive feedback from the initial event, other perianesthesia areas have requested to be a part of this beneficial opportunity.

Success:
This annual event has been in place since 2005 providing a learning opportunity for over 100 nurses. All staff nurses working in the perianesthesia areas including Main PACU Phase I and II, Same Day Surgery and Endoscopy are scheduled to attend one of three sessions held. The topics covered are relevant to perianesthesia nursing practice and staff finds it informative to attend on a yearly basis.

Implications:
A standardization of training and education was achieved to provide competent nursing care for the patients in the perianesthesia areas.