NEW PERIANESTHESIA BLOCK NURSING COMPETENCY PROGRAM INCREASES JOB SATISFACTION AMONG PERIANESTHESIA CARE UNIT (PACU) NURSES

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Background Information: PACU nurses from Brigham and Women’s Hospital reported that their clinical practice committees; a modified process of shared governance; increased participation in educational and quality improvement projects and increased interdisciplinary collaboration significantly increasing job satisfaction among PACU nurses. Numerous nursing research studies have indicated that specialty credentialing is associated with higher job satisfaction scores.

Objectives: To determine if participation in a specialty regional anesthesia Block Nurse team with associated competency in regional anesthesia nursing will increase job satisfaction among PACU nurses.

Implementation: PACU nurses were asked to complete a 14-item online survey via electronic polling. The survey investigates the relationship of specialty nursing knowledge and skills, competency validation, teamwork, and ability to affect patient outcomes, to overall job satisfaction.

Successful Practice Identified: Mean job satisfaction scores of the PACU block nursing team members are higher than the mean job satisfaction scores of PACU staff nurses who are not block nurses.

Implications for Perianesthesia Nursing: Specialty competency in regional anesthesia nursing increases involvement in educational projects, interdisciplinary collaboration, provides validation of nurses’ skills and knowledge, and empowers nurses to positively affect patient outcomes. Studies indicate that these factors are associated with increased job satisfaction among nurses.