OPTIMIZING NURSING CONTINUING EDUCATION IN PACU

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Background Information

- Diverse and complex patient population requiring Nurses to remain current in anesthesia and surgical practices
- Fast-paced and dynamic work environment
- Comprehensive ongoing education for PACU Nurses to care for this patient population

Objectives of Project

- Standardization of practices in the PACU for Nurses
- Development and implementation of ongoing and dynamic educational process to keep all Nurses current in their PACU practice
- Fulfill ASPAN standards for PACU Nursing practice

Process of Implementation

- Weekly in-service presentations integrating Advance Practice Nurses, PACU Residents and Surgeons as in-service presenters. Topics chosen from requests and suggestions from PACU staff Nurses and PACU clinical Nurse educators.
- Monthly open forum discussions with Nursing management and attending anesthesiologists to discuss concerns, streamline practices and implement changes.
- Bimonthly Nursing grand rounds presenting current topics of interest to Nurses with time provided for questions and discussion.
- Quarterly in-services presented by advance practice Nurses, educational Nurse coordinators and staff Nurses including staff Nurses from satellite hospitals to involve them in the continuing educational process.
- Annual in-service presentations presented by the PACU Clinical Nurse Educators and staff Nurses

Statement of Successful practice

- Nurses maintain a standard of practice enabling them to keep current in developments in Perianesthesia Nursing.

Implications for Advancing the practice of Perianesthesia Nursing

- PACU Nurses are highly qualified and current in their practice to care for a diverse and complex patient population