IMPLEMENTING THE PASERO OPIOID-INDUCED SEDATION SCALE (POSS) AS AN ASSESSMENT TOOL IN PREVENTING UNINTENDED SEDATION IN THE POST ANESTHESIA CARE UNIT (PACU)

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Background
Opioids are the cornerstone of treatment for managing pain in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) and unintended sedation and respiratory depression are serious events in PACU. Often times, patients arrive to the PACU with varying degrees of consciousness and requiring pain management. Generally, the Aldrete Score is used in PACU however this score does not address guideline criterions in managing pain in the presence of sedation. Additionally, limited assessment tools and clinical guidelines exist for monitoring patients receiving opioids for pain management.

Objectives
- Identify and define Naloxone (Narcan) use and Opioid over-sedation in the PACU
- Empower nurses to use POSS in the PACU
- Prevent opioid induced sedation during the immediate post-operative period

Process of implementation
- Retrieve data of Narcan use in the PACU from the Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW), review charts and assign each Narcan use a harm rating classification developed by The Joint Commission.
- Develop and implement an education competency for nurses on the use of POSS
- Evaluate Narcan use and nursing perception of the clinical usefulness of POSS through audits and surveys

Statement of successful practice
- Audits will demonstrate a 95% compliance with POSS usage
- Decrease in the number of opioid reversals with Narcan in the PACU

Implications
- Establish priorities in balancing pain management and prevent adverse opioid events in PACU
- Implement a sedation scale in the handoff of patients discharged from PACU
- Demonstrate a need for surgical and procedural units to utilize POSS