Perianesthesia nurses experienced a great deal of anxiety and frustration while working in the pre-operative holding area of the UNMH outpatient surgery center. The pre-operative set-up was not conducive to monitoring sedated patients and lacked a standardized protocol for working with patients receiving peripheral nerve blocks. Additionally, there were no tools for patient education regarding the expectations and care needed after receiving a nerve block. Perianesthesia nurses advocated for safer, more efficient means of caring for patients in this specialized setting. Utilizing Shared Governance as a venue and our professional organization, ASPAN for validation, we were able to effectively implement changes in our work environment. Collaboration with hospital directors and members of the anesthesiology department resulted in increased safety for both nurses and patients.

The purpose of this presentation is to showcase how nurses executed protocol to address the aspects of safety and education that were felt to be lacking in their work environment. This was achieved by partnering with the managing directors and the anesthesiologists and anesthetists involved in patient care. Our process for modification was applied via the PDSA format, with ASPAN standards for sedated patients used as its basis.

Our successful practice demonstrates the ability of perianesthesia nurses to campaign and design an excellent work atmosphere that functions seamlessly in conjunction with the needs and expectations of the patients and medical professionals with whom they work.

The practice of Shared Governance and membership in our professional organization has enabled perianesthesia nurses to improve their clinical practice environment.