Collaborating with Inpatient RN Colleagues: An Opportunity to Enhance the Preoperative and PostAnesthesia Patient Experience
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BACKGROUND
• This is an ongoing project to improve the patient's transition from the inpatient unit to the Preoperative unit and from PACU back to the inpatient unit.
• The goal in this phase of process improvement is to provide the inpatient RN with understanding of effective patient preparation for surgery in order to offer the best possible perioperative experience for patients and their families. Understanding of Phase I recovery lends to greater understanding of pain management and potential postop complications.
• The first phase of this ongoing staff nurse-led process improvement project led to greater satisfaction among patients and their families and the participating staff. The primary outcome has been improved timeliness of post-op pain med availability when the patient reaches the postop unit. (ASPAN CSP Poster 2014).

PROCESS AND IMPLEMENTATION
Create and implement a voluntary 7.5 ANCC contact hour class for the inpatient unit RN:
• One-hour didactic lecture on preoperative and preanesthesia preparation, Surgical Site Infection (SSI) prevention, anesthesia and recovery concepts, and postoperative complications.
• 6.5 hours of Preop and PACU observation with a preceptor to directly observe what the patient experiences in their perioperative day.
• Staff nurse may use education reimbursement pay for the day.

OBJECTIVES OF PROJECT
• Recognize the elements of effective patient preparation for surgery.
• Assess factors in the transition from the inpatient unit to Preop and from PACU to the inpatient unit that contribute to an optimal patient experience and outcomes.
• Create a class with ANCC credits that provide incentive for participation.

STATEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE
• Innovative ideas from frontline staff create opportunities for workflow process improvement that also enhance the patient and family experience.
• Collaboration between historically separate departments (Inpatient Nursing and Perianesthesia) has led to analysis of methods to identify obstacles, increase mutual understanding, and create solutions which benefit patient care and patient and staff satisfaction.

REFERENCES
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IMPLICATIONS FOR ADVANCING THE PRACTICE OF PERIANESTHESIA NURSING

REFERENCES