Title: Creating a Safer Perioperative Environment for the Obstructive Sleep Apnea Patient: Implementation of a Screening Tool

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Evidence Based Practice Abstract

Introduction: The focus for the Quality Improvement project was to promote best practice for nurses to screen patients with obstructive sleep apnea, (OSA) in the perioperative setting.

Identification of the Problem: The literature revealed the vulnerable state of patient safety when diagnosed or undiagnosed OSA patients were exposed to anesthesia and/or narcotic analgesia in the perioperative environment.

Purpose of the Project: An OSA screening tool and follow through was not being used to provide the safest care for the perioperative OSA patient.

Methodology: The Iowa Model of Evidence Based Practice, (EBP) was used. The project implemented an OSA screening tool and follow - through physician order set within a shared leadership environment.

Results: The OSA tool was implemented. A policy and procedure was created. Staff was trained and a four month pre and post implementation of the OSA screening tool would reveal data to discern efficacy. (Results available March 2010).

Discussion: A screening tool was an EBP method to assess for OSA. A definitive diagnosis and follow - through is warranted.

Conclusion: The project focused on advocating patient safety and best care for the OSA population. As a result, the OSA patient would receive the safest monitoring and care throughout their surgical intervention.

Implications for Perianesthesia nurses Future Research: Literature review should be maintained for current discovery of EBP.