PEDIATRIC AUDITORY BRAINSTEM RESPONSE TESTING UNDER ANESTHESIA: USE OF ASPAN STANDARDS TO INNOVATE PRACTICE, IMPROVE OUTCOMES, AND PROVIDE A NEW SERVICE
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Background information related to problem identification:
Prior to the implementation of the Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) Clinic, children needing sedated ABR testing were admitted to the hospital sleep deprived and were given Chloral Hydrate. Often they would fail to sedate sufficiently. With this process, results were obtained in approximately fifty percent of patients.

Objectives of project:
1) Perform ABR testing under anesthesia safely in an outpatient setting
2) Consistently and effectively obtain ABR results
3) Maximize hospital resources, increase fiscal efficiency
4) Increase patient satisfaction

Process of implementation:
1) A multidisciplinary team of nurses, anesthesiologists, and audiologists developed a plan for an ABR clinic in the Short Stay Unit (SSU), a pre-op and phase II recovery area.
2) Using ASPAN standards, developed and implemented a phase I recovery training program for pre-operative/SSU nurses who would provide care to ABR patients through admission, testing, recovery, and discharge.
3) Began weekly ABR clinic with two patients daily and increased to a twice weekly clinic with four patients daily.

Statement of successful practice:
The ABR clinic has improved outcomes by successfully obtaining ABR results from 100% of sedated patients. Better use of resources and higher success in obtaining results has resulted in financial cost savings and increased patient, staff, and physician satisfaction.

Implications for advancing the practice of perianesthesia nursing:
The ABR clinic has advanced the practice of our SSU nurses by expanding their role to include phase I recovery nursing. The use of ASPAN standards has ensured a safe environment and allows us to better meet the needs of our patients.