MAINTAINING PERIANESTHESIA COMPETENCIES ON A TIGHT BUDGET!

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During tough economic times creativity and out of the box thinking was needed to meet our yearly validation requirements. The unit based education committee was given a one hour time frame to complete validations instead of the usual 4 hour allotment. The committee met and decided to do a simulation based validation. Utilizing the latest technology, our Nursing Practice and Professional Development colleagues and Sim Man, we created three different scenarios. Each case study included the high risk low frequency competencies seen in our hospital based ambulatory phase I and II surgery center. The ASPAN standards were also used to include evidence based practice standards and recommended competencies for the perianesthesia nurse.

The main objectives were to effectively work with team members and utilize critical thinking. Each individual scenario had situation specific objectives that were to be met by the team. Education committee members validated and confirmed findings. Sim Man was placed on the unit so the nurses were in their environment and able to use their equipment.

At the end of the simulation there was opportunity for reflective discussion. Overall staff felt the simulation was a successful way to complete their annual validations. They were happy to have a one hour time block instead of the usual four hours on a Saturday morning. The education committee recommended for the following year we request a two hour time frame so we can review other skills that they felt were not covered well during the simulation.