

CREATING A SUCCESSFUL CERTIFICATION JOURNEY THROUGH CPAN/CAPA MENTORING IN THE PRE AND POSTOPERATIVE DEPARTMENTS

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There was no formalized certification mentoring program at Georgetown Hospital within the Perianesthesia Department. Certification is a process that validates nursing competency within a specialty area of nursing. This validation is attained through computerized testing, proctored by a separate organization. The goal was to create a certification mentoring program within the department that promotes and supports professional nursing practice through certification. We hoped that more nurses would become certified through the implementation of this program. We advertised the mentoring sessions both formally and informally, and were supported by management. Nurses interested in attaining certification attended a series of five four-hour mentoring sessions to help assist them in their journey. Contact hours were approved for each session. The mentoring program assisted with online registration for exam review, provided guidance with structured group and independent study, and provided resource study materials.

Nurses initially not passing the exam were supported, encouraged, and assisted in further attempts at obtaining certification and many were successful at subsequent attempts. In the past two years of the CPAN/CAPA Mentoring Program, the quota of certified colleagues has doubled. The nurses who have taken the exam are proud and speak openly about their journey.

The fear of taking the exam has begun to fade. This coming year other perianesthesia nurses will be mentors in the program to provide more support and collaboration among the staff for certification.