

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF ONSITE UNIT SPECIFIC EDUCATION PROGRAM**

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**Introduction:** Nurses with increased education demonstrate less difficulty in applying evidence based practices (Foo, 2011). Those who participate demonstrate knowledge development, improved skills and skills acquisitions (Smith, 2012). Ongoing continuing education benefits include improved patient care, safety, and satisfaction as well as nurse retention and improved work life (Cibulka, 2011).

**Research Problem:** Quality and patient safety concerns with expansion of Level I trauma Perianesthesia Care Unit from 22 to 36 beds with influx of nurses from different disciplines, educational background, and nursing skill thought process. Recognition of knowledge deficits of critical thinking skills specific to the perianesthesia patient with educational training adversely affected by budget, time, staffing, and patient constraints.

**Purpose of the Study:** Identify knowledge deficits of critical thinking processes related to perianesthesia patient to determine feasibility of implementing specific perianesthesia topics educational program.

**Methods:** Systematic literary review, direct observation, shared governance focus groups, and staff surveys. Gaps and needs identified:

- Feasibility of onsite education: Location, weekday, time, and staffing interest.
- Process to identify knowledge deficits and educational needs.
- Process to obtain contact hours, speakers, biographies, objectives, and evaluation process of educational presentation.
- Test Validation with pre-and post analysis evaluation of critical thinking process.

**Results:** Utilizing evidence based approach, gaps in critical thinking process identified and addressed with free onsite educational contact hours. Knowledge analysis over an 8 month timeframe demonstrated pretest knowledge with a mean average of 60.36% to post educational analysis increased by 90.327%. Preferred weekday and time Wednesday 8:00 am preferred by 42.9%. Staff satisfaction and response to continue bi-monthly perianesthesia education 86.4%

**Discussion:** Previous nursing/critical thought process and skill sets may not be sufficient for the perianesthesia patient. Onsite education unit specific programs address this issue.

**Conclusion/Implications:** Onsite unit specific education to the perianesthesia patient benefit nurses, patients, and organizations by providing a convenient, cost effective, continuing education method. Ongoing learning enhances proactiveness, expertise, application of evidenced based practice with improved skills and knowledge benefitting the nurse and patient.

Formulation of onsite unit specific perianesthesia based education is validated.