

RENOVATING PATIENT CARE SPACE: STAFF NURSE PARTICIPATION IN DECISIONS TO OPTIMIZE WORKFLOW, EFFICIENCY AND SAFETY

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Objectives:

To explore strategies to elicit staff nurse participation and engagement in renovation and design decisions.

To identify decisions that is crucial to engage the bedside Staff RN related to safe patient care and workplace layout and design.

To identify barriers associated with patient care unit renovation projects.

Detroit Receiving Hospital (DRH) is an urban teaching hospital with specialties for Trauma/General Surgery, Orthopedics and Urology. The DRH Operating Room has 10 OR / Procedure Rooms. Our strategic goals include expanding our surgical volume of our specialties; focusing on elective surgery. However, the Pre-Op Holding and Recovery Room space is insufficient and dated. In 2012 the Pre-Op Holding and Recovery Room unit will be remodeled to increase the size and improve efficiency.

Staff RN engagement in decision making has been crucial in the re-design of our patient care space to facilitate safe patient care and optimal work flow. Staff RNs partnering with the Manager were involved in the planning process.

Multiple strategies were used to elicit staff nurse feedback including: posting construction plans, staff meetings, vendor fairs, visible samples, mock up rooms and role playing.

RN input was imperative. RNs participated in decisions regarding types of technology at the bedside, the patient monitoring equipment, new equipment and the layout design of patient space as well as support space to facilitate work-flow. Included in the support space was linen, supply storage solutions, soiled utility, cart storage, medication dispensing machines, emergency equipment and communication systems. Special attention was focused on technology options as DRH utilizes the Electronic Medical Record.

Also of great importance to the RN staff was their personal space: nursing desk configuration and the staff lounge.

The construction project had many barriers including renovating into an existing space, working through construction maintaining full OR capabilities and financial constraints.

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