

PERMANENT CHARGE NURSES: EMPRESSES OF TIME AND SPACE

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Background Information:

- Role of Charge Nurse (CN) for Preop and PACU was rotated
- Patients triaged using a 20 page folded OR schedule and a numbered paper grid
- To avoid “OR HOLD,” patients were discharged quickly without regard for standard of care
- Charge nurses varied daily and every shift each with different management and implementation styles causing a multitude of confusion and inconsistency

Objectives of the Project:

- Coordinate patient assignments to optimize resources (staff, space, equipment)
- Develop consistent leadership regardless of individual diversity in style and background
- Promote and maintain nursing practice based on ASPAN standards

Process of Implementation:

- Permanent Charge Nurse (PCN) for all shifts in Preop and PACU were appointed
- PCN were made members of the leadership team and included in weekly meetings
- Electronic Preop/ PACU Manager developed enabling PCN to view unit activity
- Developed PCN orientation program

Statement of Successful Practice:

- PCNs provided a consistent approach to management and triage of each area
- Respect and trust among colleagues and all partners in patient care developed
- ASPAN standards of care promoted

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:

- Consistent management of resources in perianesthesia areas provides enhanced collegial relationships and promotes an environment of care that allows nurses to provide a high standard of care based on ASPAN standards