

JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE: USE OF “ELECTRONIC CLASSROOM” AND OTHER STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE PREPARATION FOR CPAN/CAPA SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION

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Background information related to problem identification: The journey to excellence for experienced registered nurses calls for specialty certification. Joint Commission and ANCC Magnet consider specialty certification a quality indicator for healthcare institutions.

Objectives of project: Our objective was to enhance the learning opportunities through innovative and cost effective teaching methods to progress to the goal of 100% certification of nurses who joined PACU prior to April 2011.

Process of implementation: A collaborative team consisting of a clinical resource nurse, PACU education council members, PACU leadership, and the Senior PACU Nurse Educator was formed. The multimodal approaches included an “electronic classroom” where nurses can access the study information anytime 24/7 at home and/or at work which included test-taking strategies, resource manuals, core materials from textbooks, handouts from previous conferences, and practice test questions. We also developed and provided multiple Peri-anesthesia one-day certification review workshops based on the needs of our nurses.

Statement of the successful practice: This educational support has succeeded in increasing the percentage of certified nurses by 84% as we continue toward our goal of 100% certification. Implications for advancing the practice of Peri-anesthesia nursing: Nursing certification has benefits for patients and families, employers, and nurses. Multimodal and creative approaches to learning support staff in preparing for the certification exam and increase the likelihood of certified nurses.