

STANDARDIZING ADULT CRASH CARTS

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Staff employed by the Cleveland Clinic Lorain Institute Ambulatory Surgery Centers float between the three ASCs. The crash carts at all three ASCs were completely different. One facility had 6 drawer crash carts, one had 4 drawer crash carts and one had crash carts with 2 doors and once opened, had 4 drawers on the inside as well as storage inside the doors.

OBJECTIVES OF PROJECT:

Our theme was "Time is muscle and can be the difference between life and death." The objective of the project was to standardize all the crash carts at all three surgery centers so they would be the same no matter what facility the staff was working at. The implications for nursing practice was to reduce confusion and time it would take to find objects on the crash carts.

PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION:

First, scavenger hunts were performed on the existing crash carts to determine a baseline of how long it took staff to find a selected list of supplies. The 6 drawer crash cart was chosen to be the standard crash cart for each facility and a list of needed supplies was compiled in accordance with anesthesia and pharmacy. A master list of supplies was created and divided up by drawer. Once the supplies were organized in the drawers, color photographs were taken of the drawers. 8 x 10 color photos were printed and laminated with a list of the supplies located in each drawer and kept on top of the crash carts for reference. Staff was then educated on the new crash carts and a scavenger hunt was repeated to see if there was an improvement in the time it took for staff to find the selected list of supplies as before the crash carts were changed.

STATEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE:

After ordering new 6 drawer crash carts for all the facilities, re-organizing the drawers, educating the staff and providing color photographs of the drawers as well as a list of supplies, the time it took to do the scavenger hunt was reduced by 50%.

IMPLICATIONS FOR ADVANCING THE PRACTICE OF PERIANESTHESIA NURSING:

The goal for the implications of nursing practice was to decrease the amount of time it took to search for items on the crash cart. The goal was achieved when our outcomes showed a 50% reduction in the amount of time it took to find the listed items on the crash cart.