

## **ADDING A PHARMACIST TO THE PERIANESTHESIA RESOURCE TEAM**

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### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

- Our hospital uses an Electronic Medical Administration Record (EMAR) to review and approve medications for patients
- The Perianesthesia area does not have access to EMAR
- Any medications not stocked in our Omnicell are obtained from the central pharmacy which can take an extended period of time
- Postoperatively the patient's regular medications may not be ordered.
- Some medication doses are weight based
- Staff may not be familiar with new medications used in the perianesthesia area

### **OBJECTIVES OF PROJECT:**

- To have a pharmacist check all medications for the Perianesthesia patients
- To obtain medications in a timely fashion
- To ensure that all the medications patients need are reordered postoperatively
- To verify that the correct dose has been ordered
- To educate staff on any medications they are unfamiliar with

### **PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION:**

- A pharmacist is now assigned to the Perianesthesia area 5 days per week 7A-11P and weekends and holidays from 7A – 3:30P
- If the pharmacist is not readily available in the area they can be contacted via a beeper
- For the hours that a pharmacist is not available in the Perianesthesia area the main pharmacy is the resource

### **STATEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE:**

- Medications can now be obtained in a timely fashion
- All of the patients' preoperative medications are being ordered postoperatively
- If the wrong dose is ordered the pharmacist informs the RN and contacts the Doctor to correct the dose
- Coffee Talks have been implemented once a month with either a Question and Answer session or an identified subject
- Nurses can feel certain that they are medicating the right patient with the right medication, the right dose, the right time and the right route

### **IMPLICATIONS FOR ADVANCING THE PRACTICE OF PERIANESTHESIA NURSING:**

- Having a pharmacist available in the Perianesthesia area provides another professional resource for the Perianesthesia nurses and our Doctors as well
- Questions that may arise are immediately addressed and any problems corrected immediately