

**IMPLEMENTING A “LIPID RESCUE” PROTOCOL FOR LOCAL ANESTHETIC  
TOXICITY IN A PERI-ANESTHESIA SETTING**

Team Leader: Karen A. Stannard, RN, CPAN, CAPA  
Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, Connecticut  
Team Member: Karen Ozycz, RN, CPAN

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The incidence of local anesthetic toxicity during nerve block has been reported in the literature to be of clinical significance. Data suggest up to 20 out of 10,000 peripheral nerve blocks and 4 per 10,000 epidural blocks result in systemic local anesthetic toxicity. With the increased use of regional anesthesia to supplement or substitute for general anesthesia, all Peri-anesthesia Nursing Professionals must be familiar with signs of local anesthetic cardiotoxicity and current treatment options. The management of such an event requires the collaboration of an interdisciplinary team to be properly educated and prepared.

**OBJECTIVES OF PROJECT:**

To educate Peri-anesthesia staff in the recognition of signs and symptoms of local anesthetic toxicity and to implement a rapid response treatment using a standardized Lipid Rescue Protocol.

**PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION:**

We developed a Lipid Rescue Education Module in the form of a literature summary and synopsis to educate Peri-anesthesia staff in the signs and symptoms of local anesthetic toxicity. We reviewed the current standardized Lipid Rescue Protocol with Peri-anesthesia staff to educate and familiarize current treatment regimen.

**STATEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE:**

Project currently in process with results expected during Q1 2015.

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

Promoting education, teamwork and partnerships between the cross-functional patient care team to prevent life threatening patient events that lead to poor outcomes in the Peri-anesthesia setting.