

TRANSITIONING STUDENTS FROM A PRECEPTOR BASED MODEL TO A PATIENT FOCUSED CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

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Background Information: Expansion of operating rooms has brought an increase in the number of needed nurses for Perioperative Services. The number of students who apply for nursing positions has not been tracked, nor has the quality of the student program been examined. It is unknown if the student has gained in knowledge or skill or had a positive experience.

Objectives of Project: Enhancement of the student practicum to encourage student application to the facility. Develop ongoing evaluations to track increase in knowledge and skill. Develop an evaluation of the student and a system to track the number applying for nursing positions.

Process of Implementation: Solutions were found in having the student follow a patient through their perioperative experience (Preop, OR and PACU) allowing for deeper understanding of the patient's experience and multiple views of the nursing role in Perioperative Services. Pre-education materials were developed along with forms for completion during time spent observing in the OR. Adjunct time was spent with a Certified Nurse Anesthetist, in the Electroconvulsive Therapy Suite, and in a cadaver lab. Pre and post evaluations were implemented for students and an evaluation of the student to be completed at the end of their practicum.

Statement of Successful Practice: Identifying that a student's experience could be enhanced by following a patient allowed us to improve the student's perioperative experience and brought a significant increase in the number of known nurse applicants. Comparison of student pre and post evaluation scores also reflected an increase in their knowledge base. Students and their faculty expressed positive support for the new process.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Objectives for student programs need to be defined on individual units in order that programs can be developed to assist in the student's growth of knowledge and skill and then utilized as sources for gaining new nurses within the facility.