

USE OF HIGH FIDELITY SIMULATION FOR ANNUAL AIRWAY COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

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Background Information: Annual assessment of airway management competency is recommended for PeriAnesthesia nurses. Traditionally this has been accomplished with demonstration of bag/mask use on a BLS manikin. While this affords the opportunity for evaluation of the skill, it does not provide insight into the ability of the learner to recognize the need for airway intervention.

Objectives of Project: Utilize high fidelity simulation resources to add realism and meaning to annual airway competency assessment

Process of Implementation:

- Unit-based Education Coordinators were strongly encouraged to explore the use of simulation resources in their competency and educational offerings
- Conversations between the PACU and simulation center educators determined simulation could be used for an airway management competency
- Simulation resources were reserved
- Scenarios were developed for apnea/bradypnea, stridor/laryngospasm and anaphylaxis
- Staff participated in scenarios to demonstrate airway management skills
- Debriefings were done after each scenario
- A summary of debriefing discussion points was disseminated to all staff via email and unit newsletter

Statement of Successful Practice: Use of high fidelity simulation provides a more reality-based experience for airway competency assessment. Although initially reluctant to participate, staff quickly embraced this educational opportunity. A satisfaction survey was conducted after all competencies were completed. The majority of responses were positive and offered feedback such as "Really enjoyed what I learned. Thank you."

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Use of high fidelity simulation for competency assessment provides for practical application of skills. As use of simulation gains popularity, it can be incorporated to enhance competency assessment and promote higher learning.