

PRIORITIZING EDUCATION: IMPLEMENTING AND SUSTAINING WEEKLY UNIT-BASED EDUCATION TIME FOR PERIANESTHESIA STAFF

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Background Information: Our perianesthesia care unit has expanded to include additional surgical services as well as interventional radiology and endoscopy. With this growth came an introduction of new nursing staff to the unit. As the unit grew, the need for unit-specific education for the staff was recognized. Taking into account that procedure and surgical start times are later on Mondays, Monday mornings were identified as a learning opportunity window for the perianesthesia staff.

Objectives of Project:

- To provide the perianesthesia staff with learning opportunities
- To implement a weekly unit-based education time for staff by utilizing Monday morning schedule downtime
- To introduce new procedures, surgeries, and guidelines to staff
- To provide a venue for nurses to present annual evidence-based presentations
- To establish and sustain a dynamic unit-based education program

Process of Implementation: We presented the idea of allotting Monday mornings as dedicated education time for the perianesthesia staff to the Nursing leadership, who readily approved the program. We coordinated with conference services to make conference rooms available. We then collaborated and scheduled speakers from different multidisciplinary team members to speak on their specialties. Nurse Educators and Clinical Nurse Specialists introduced new hospital-wide changes on policies and procedures. Clinical nurses used this time to give their annual evidence-based presentations. The sessions are presented at 9am and repeated at 10am to allow for most perianesthesia care unit staff to attend. A learning needs assessment was utilized to identify staff interest and learning needs.

Statement of Successful Practice: Staff survey results indicated favorable feedback from nursing staff regarding the education content, speakers, and use of downtime. The survey showed that the topics were valuable and relevant to our practice. Staff Attendance sheets show 73.6% of staff scheduled on Mondays attend the sessions.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Perianesthesia nursing is ever changing. Nurses need to commit to life-long learning. Designated unit-based education time provides valuable opportunities for increased knowledge and professional growth.