

DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A PERI-OP PROCEDURAL FLOAT POOL IN THE PREOPERATIVE AREAS

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Background information:

- Preoperative care is provided for patients undergoing anesthesia/sedation both in the operating room setting as well as multiple procedural areas
- Nurses working in these preoperative areas need to assess minimum patient data elements along with items that are specific to the individual procedures and verification of important safety checklists
- Staffing across the various preoperative areas fluctuated at various times, due to vacations, unexpected absences

Objectives:

- Develop a separate Periop/Procedural Float Pool that would support the needs of all of the preoperative areas
- Standardize minimum data assessment across all areas

Process of Implementation

- Cost center created supported by a nursing director/ nursing educator in our current perioperative areas
- Per diem positions were established with training to be provided in the following preoperative areas: Main OR, Endoscopy, Interventional Cardiology, Pain Service, Preadmission testing
- Orientation planned for nurses to work specific periods of time in each area

Statement of Successful Practice:

- Developed a core group of nurses who are able to care for patients in all preoperative areas
- Provided standardization across all preoperative areas
- Sharing of processes across all preoperative areas has helped each area become more efficient
- Supplemental staffing that is assigned in advance provided much needed support to meet staffing needs during peak vacations, leave of absences, and unexpected absences

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Nursing:

- Consistent standard of care
- Safe practices to promote patient safety
- Opportunity for newly licensed nurses and experienced nurses to explore working in different perianesthesia settings