



Empowering PACU Nurses to Lead and Manage an Emergent Event

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Background

Rapid growth and expansion of our medical facility created a delay in response time for the code blue hospital team.

Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) nursing team determined there was a need to develop and empower PACU nurses for emergent cardiopulmonary issues.

The American Heart Association consensus statement on the quality of CPR emphasized team management as a way to improve quality of resuscitation care.

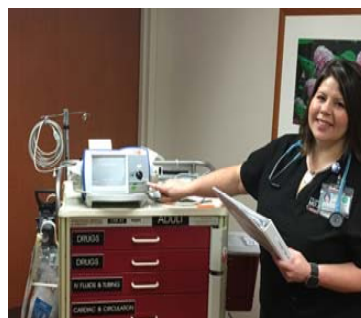
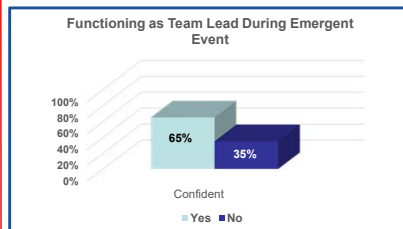
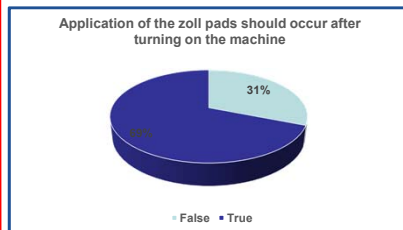
Objectives

The objective of this project was to build knowledge/skills that allow the PACU nurses to confidently identify and manage an emergent event in a timely manner, in order to improve patient outcomes and empower nurses in their role.

Assessment

Knowledge Base Survey

- The Zoll monitor should be turned on before applying zoll pads to patient's chest.
True ___ False ___
- According to AHA, Amiodarone is the first drug administered in unstable VT/VF.
True ___ False ___
- The tracheostomy tray is located in the "Airway & Breathing" drawer.
True ___ False ___
- The signed Code Blue Documentation form will serve as the physician's orders and physician & nurse's treatment notes for the code.
True ___ False ___
- The Team Leader should give a brief accurate report to the MD and Anesthesiologist on the Code Blue team's arrival related to code blue interventions.
True ___ False ___
- I have ___ years of clinical nursing experience
 - 1-5
 - 6-10
 - 11-20
 - >20



The survey indicated

- 69% of the nursing team were not competent in use of current defibrillator pads
- 35% of the nursing team was not confident functioning as team lead during an emergent airway event.

Implementation Process

- Identified the need for improved response given an emergent event
- Evaluated resources and developed education plan
- Presented plan to PACU leadership and Anesthesiologist
- Assessed the knowledge & skills of PACU nurses pre & post project implementation
- Nurses were educated with skill stations, simulation and case scenario reviews to build confidence in roles during an emergent event
- Developed daily staffing, allowing nurses to voluntarily sign up for specific role, ensuring the confidence in their ability to perform their role
- Ongoing education provided to build confidence in the various roles

Results

The post survey indicates that:

- 100% were able to correctly identify placement & proper use of defibrillator pads
- 76% indicated confidence in emergent airway management,
- 100% stated the training session improved their abilities to provide clinical leadership during emergent situations.

Implications for Perianesthesia Nursing

Implementing an education plan, skills stations, scenario based simulation and voluntary sign up, can empower nurses to develop competencies and prevent failure to rescue in the PACU setting.

Clinical Nurses in the PACU are required to maintain ACLS and PALS certification. Currently for 2017 we are 100% compliant. Annual Mock Code and review of defined roles assist team members with sustaining clinical practice.

Acknowledgements

PACU Clinical Nursing Team
Soo Ok MSN RN CPAN
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