

## **Standardizing Research Protocol Practice on a Procedural Recovery Unit Through Effective Communication and Staff Education**

Team Leaders: Jill Perez BSN RN CPAN, Kunju Saban MSN RN  
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Houston, Texas  
Team Member: Sheila Fairly BSN RN

**Background Information:** One of the newest frontiers in cancer research and treatment is the injection of various substances into cancerous tumors. Multiple protocol procedures began occurring daily on our procedural unit, with each having different needs in recovery. Some requirements were specific times for vital signs, collection of bloodwork, performing an EKG series, observation for adverse reactions, admission/discharge/transfer, and patient education. In addition to the regular recovery load, nurses had new and different types of patients on a variety of protocols to care for. A need was identified for education and improved communication between the recovery nursing staff and research teams to facilitate high quality patient care while ensuring all protocol parameters were met.

**Objectives of Project:** The objective of this project was to consolidate the research data and improve communication between recovery nurses and the research team. The goal was to increase nursing knowledge and level of comfort in caring for patients on research protocols.

**Process of Implementation:** The research teams created a series of educational sessions for each protocol to clarify points and provide staff an opportunity to ask questions. Laminated tip sheets were created and kept in a central location on the unit for reference. Also, monthly meetings with research coordinators and recovery nurses were scheduled to call attention to and resolve issues. Weekly reports from research coordinators were submitted to the shared box drive and daily emails of changes were transcribed onto a daily reference sheet containing all pertinent information for each patient's care. Staff were educated on Cytokine Release Syndrome and its protocols. Nurses were surveyed at the beginning of the study, after the initial education, and after six months of patient care for this population.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** The Post Education Survey both immediate and six months later, showed an improvement in nurse comfort level with caring for tumor injection patients, increased understanding of Cytokine Release Syndrome and where to find the CRS algorithm, and an increased use of protocol specific discharge instructions. Proactive education and standardization of research protocol information increased nursing comfort in caring for tumor injection patients in post procedural recovery.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** Constant updates, education, and management of tip sheets were needed to maintain correct information. The organization of the daily reference sheet received a very positive response from nurses. With each new protocol recovery nurses needed to encourage each research protocol team to provide education as well as create new discharge instructions, protocol fact sheets, and nurse education. An assigned group of staff to manage protocols was very helpful.