

Background

- ❖ New PACU staff nurses are assigned two preceptors for a three month orientation. It was noted that a lot of variation existed in the education of orientees regarding various protocols and policies in the PACU.
- ❖ We discussed with new staff and orientees areas where they felt discrepancies existed in their orientation, which included documentation and checking of patient controlled analgesia (PCA), frequency of vital signs, documentation of assessments, and various competencies, such as arterial lines. We formulated a pre-education survey monkey to assess if all staff on the unit needed further education.
- ❖ Pre-Survey results showed that 47% of orientees felt as though there were inconsistencies from preceptor to preceptor.
- ❖ The objective of this project is to streamline the education and orientation process by in-servicing all staff on policies regarding documentation so that each new PACU staff nurse receives consistent information from both preceptors.

Methods

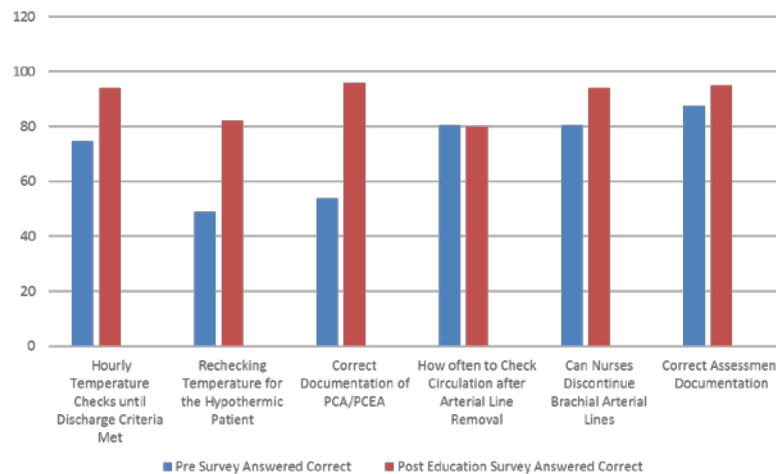
- ❖ This was a quality improvement project.
- ❖ A ten question anonymous survey monkey was sent out to all staff regarding PACU policies and documentation to determine who followed policy.
- ❖ After the pre-education survey, we decided to focus our attention on 4 main PACU policies which included documentation and checking of patient controlled analgesia (PCA), frequency of temperatures in PACU, documentation of assessments for the ICU and stepdown patients, and policies regarding arterial lines. All PACU nurses were then in-serviced on PACU policies and documentation on the topics highlighted in the survey results.
- ❖ A post-education survey monkey was sent out to all staff to determine the effectiveness of the in-services.
- ❖ We received a total of 50 responses pre and post education for survey questions.

Findings

- ❖ On average nurses answered 64.7% of the questions correctly prior to in-services. After education on protocols, post-survey results showed an improvement to 89.2%.
- ❖ Survey results showed there was no consistent documentation by all nursing staff that followed PACU policy. These key findings were relevant to the study.

Results

PACU EDUCATION STANDARDIZATION FOR PACU PROTOCOLS



Discussion

- ❖ The strength of the project was the high response rate pre and post survey. Limitations included Pre survey questions being vague. Once pre survey answers were reviewed, post survey questions were more detailed which led to difficulty comparing pre and post results.
- ❖ Implications include standardizing the orientation process in order to streamline care of patients throughout their PACU stay.
- ❖ The study enabled the PACU staff nurse to improve workflow and compliance with PACU policies, also allowing for consistent documentation throughout the duration of their time in PACU.
- ❖ Our recommendations include implementing preceptor workshops and educating all preceptors on key PACU protocols and policies.



References

Simpson, E., Courtney, M.(2002). Critical thinking in nursing: Literature review. *International Journal of Nursing Practice*, 8(2), 89-98.

For more information, please contact:
Jaclyn Hughes RN or Toni Correggio RN at (212)746-0336