

## **Supporting Perianesthesia Nurses Throughout the Transition to One Cohesive Unit**

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### **Background Information:**

- Brigham and Women's Hospital Perianesthesia area consists of 4 units: Pre-op Unit, Day Surgery Unit (DSU), Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) and Extended Recovery Unit (ERU)
- Each nurse in these units have a specific skill set and are not cross trained in each area
- The Main OR volume is growing and hold times are increasing
- The decision was made to cross train all nurses and blend the 4 Perianesthesia units

### **Objectives of Project:**

- To blend all existing units into one Perianesthesia unit
- To cross train all staff to care for patients across the Perianesthesia area
- To decrease OR hold times
- To allow for better flow and more adaptability of staff

### **Process of Implementation:**

- The Pre-op Unit, DSU, PACU, and ERU blended in September 2018
- Cross training began with 2 nurses at a time
- Each nurse provided with orientation and education based on prior skill set
- Orientation adapted for each nurse to facilitate competency in pre-op, phase 1 and phase 2 level of care

### **Statement of Successful Practice:**

- Blending of units has allowed for more bed availability
- OR holds have decreased
- Increased flexibility of nurses to move through the Perianesthesia area to improve flow

### **Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:**

- The cross training of nurses allows for a broader skill set to care for the Perianesthesia patient
- Nurses in the Perianesthesia area are more adaptable and able to safely care for any patient