Blood Patch Process

Purpose: Patients requiring a blood patch should be given priority and taken care of in an appropriate setting. The Perianesthesia Care Unit (PACU) seemed more ideal than having patients sit in the emergency department (ED) waiting for care.

Description: A team was formed to discuss the current process for patients who require a blood patch. It was decided that during the day patients were sent to the hospital’s pain clinic but after hours and on weekends patients would go to the ED and wait to be seen and cared for. The team decided to utilize the PACU setting for after hours and on weekends. The PACU staff and anesthesia developed standards of care, an order set, educated staff and put together a blood patch kit.

Evaluation and Outcomes: Patients no longer wait in the ED. When a patient arrives to the ED for a blood patch, they are sent directly to the PACU. Anesthesia and nursing staff are readily available. The blood patch kit has improved care at the bedside with having supplies readily available. Standards of care are shared with the pain clinic to provide standardization. The PACU nurses have developed a patient education brochure for the patients.