Perianesthesia Nursing Practice Committee

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Background:
Identification of variables in nursing practices in perianesthesia areas provided the impetus to form our Perianesthesia Nursing Practice Committee.

Objectives:
To ensure patient safety by standardizing nursing practices, policies and procedures across all perianesthesia related units while incorporating all ASPAN Standards.

Process:
Monthly meetings with member representation from perianesthesia areas began in 2006. Policies, procedures and protocols have been developed, updated and revised. Membership has grown to include areas that provide care involving moderate sedation, resulting in the standardization the admission and discharge process as well as policies and procedures.

Success:
Monitoring occurs in all areas with moderate sedation. Criteria for admission and discharge for phase II is a direct result of staff education incorporating the ASPAN standards.

Implications:
Potential problems are identified and resolved. Education and interventions are initiated to ensure positive outcomes for patients, while providing safe patient care.