Keeping Care at the Bedside

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Background Information
PACU is a 37 bed, high acuity unit with an inefficient environment. Nurses expressed dissatisfaction with need to leave bedside due to:
- Limited computer access
- Inconvenient telephone location
- Limited, scattered supplies
- Resource reference guides inaccessible
- Distant hand washing sinks

Objective
Improve patient care, safety, and nurse satisfaction by keeping the nurse at the bedside.

Process of Implementation
Working with nursing leadership, we identified items necessary for bedside care. Management provided clinical and financial support. The following changes were implemented:
- Beepers (pagers) issued to each nurse
- Telephones installed at bedside
- Hand sanitizer mounted on each bedside table
- Portable laptops on wheels for each nurse
- Fanny packs given to each nurse
- Thermometers mounted at bedside
- Sharps containers installed at bedside
- PACU algorithm documents mounted at bedside
- Reference guides given to each nurse

Statement of Successful Practice
Increased nursing presence at the bedside led to improved patient safety and nurse satisfaction, while efficiently utilizing nursing time and resources.

Implication for Perianesthesia Nurses
Nursing presence at the bedside increases:
- Nurse satisfaction
- Patient safety
- Caregiver communication
- Cost effectiveness
- Efficient use of time

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