Purpose: Our hospital receives a high volume of surgical patients. Many have chronic illnesses and have increased pre/post-surgical needs. Nurses in the surgical environment have a great responsibility in dealing with acute pain and hemodynamic instabilities. Nursing success is dependent upon engagement, or a dedication to one’s work. Burnout occurs when nurses are highly stressed and are disengaged in their work. The purpose of this survey was to assess for nursing burnout in the perioperative environment and to compare levels between RNs in the Perianesthesia Care Unit (PACU) and other post-surgical areas.

Description: A survey to measure burnout was administered to RNs in the PACU, surgical ICU, orthopedic, vascular, and general surgery floors. Surveys were anonymous and included demographic information, such as years as an RN and education level. Questions included information about working long hours and inability to fulfill expectations at work.

Outcome: A total of 80 RNs completed the engagement survey. Burnout was not significant and differences between the PACU and other surgical areas were not observed. Results of the survey will be posted and solutions for potential burnout will be developed to assist RNs better deal with their work environment.