ABSTRACT: Adaptation of an Inpatient Electronic Medical Record in a Perianesthesia Setting

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BACKGROUND: During the design and testing of an inpatient nursing Electronic Medical Record (EMR) in our hospital it became apparent that the perioperative setting required more use of the inpatient EMR than originally planned. This change in “scope” required unique training for nurses in the various areas of Pre and Post-Operative Services.

OBJECTIVES: Product testing led the project leaders to construct scenarios specific for the perianesthesia patient. These scenarios mirrored data collection as the patient moved throughout the perianesthesia continuum. The objective behind the development of these scenarios was to provide our nurses with examples of how to use the EMR in various patient care situations. This gave them practice in documentation specific to their work flow thereby increasing their confidence.

PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION: Our staff was taught in several classes by a group of “super-users.” Nurses were strongly encouraged to practice using training programs during and after their initial classroom experience.

STATEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE: End-users used the EMR during “Go-Live” to document patient care in a confident, positive manner following their experience with the targeted focus of the scenarios.

IMPLICATIONS FOR PERIANESTHESIA NURSING: We believe these scenarios can be used by perianesthesia nurses to educate their staff, thereby increasing competence in the use of an EMR.