CSP ABSTRACT

Process Improvement project: “PONV Risk Factors in PACU”

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Background/Problem Identification:

Nurses continue to observe a high incidence of PONV in the PACU resulting in prolonged length of stays (LOS). The ASPAN PONV Clinical Guidelines include simplified risk factor identifications tools, which are inconsistently used at the bedside.

Objectives of the Project:

Which PONV risk factors are present in patients experiencing and what medical interventions are given perioperatively? Do these interventions reduce LOS due to PONV?

Process of Implementation:

A team composed of nurses and the Medical Director was created to review our patient PONV risk factors, medications received and impact on LOS. The tool was developed and 165 convenience samples were evaluated over a 2 month period.

Statement of Successful Practice:

This provided an opportunity for the Nurse Clinician IIE team to practice research collaboratively with experts to better understand patients experiencing PONV in the PACU. This resulted in increased awareness of the PONV risk factors and change in our preoperative assessment to identify high risk patients.

Implications for Advancing the Practice:

Findings revealed that 29% of the population had 3-4 PONV risk factors. Our prophylaxis with one or more medications rate was 25%. A prolonged PACU stay due to PONV averaged 30-180 minutes. Providers’ practice varied widely in management of PONV. Risk factors have been integrated into the preoperative nursing assessment with our new documentation and standards of care.
References: