Title: Anesthesia and Nursing Considerations for the Cocaine Positive Surgical Patient.

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Background information related to problem identification:
Surgical Services evaluated processes affecting patient, physician, staff satisfaction, and costs. Surgical patients admitting to recent use and testing positive for cocaine were automatically cancelled. This resulted in decreased productivity, unfilled OR time from cancellations, lost revenue, patient, surgeon, and staff dissatisfaction.

Objectives of Project:
1. Decrease the cancellation rate.
2. Improve staff/patient/physician satisfaction.
3. Revise the current anesthesia cocaine policy based on Evidenced Based Practice and national standards.
4. No adverse patient sequelae upon implementation of the revised cocaine cancellation policy.

Process of Implementation:
The hospital librarian was consulted for a literature search pertinent to this topic. A consultant was used to determine national trends and standards. Key stakeholders reviewed the literature for evidence regarding safe practice for the cocaine positive patient. Evidence supported changing the policy to screen patients for physiologic changes that would warrant cancellation.

Statement of successful implementation:
The practice change resulted in a 46% decrease in cancellations, thus increasing patient, surgeon, and staff satisfaction with lost revenue decreasing by $17,600.

Implications for advancing the practice of perianesthesia nursing:
Nursing and physicians collaborating regarding best practice concerning these issues creates an environment of trust and collegiality. Working together as a team can forward safe practice and patient care while increasing patient and physician satisfaction.