Perioperative Care Unit (PACU) Pulse and PACU Website: staying on top of the barrage of new information

Purpose: Being a major trauma center recovery room, we see continual improvements to surgical techniques, rapid recovery medications, postoperative management, and continuing education on our patients. This barrage of information can be difficult to process and implement. We sought multiple media solution to relay new information and practice changes to staff.

Description: To address this issue we developed “PACU PULSE” newsletter and PACU website, both unit specific. The easily accessible, multiple media approach is used to distribute information. There are sections for “Medication and Policy of the Month”. We list dates of upcoming classes, meetings and inservices. Meeting minutes, standards and protocols are posted. Staff contribute by writing articles on diseases, medications, policies, and current happenings. Each newsletter is placed on the website for cross reference.

Outcomes: The PACU PULSE and PACU website have been well received. We have great participation by staff. Staff verbalize satisfaction. Staff can easily keep up to date on policies, medications and care for recovery room patients. We use the website and newsletter as a continual cross source reference. Increase in staff participation has motivated them to take an active role in their learning.