ADDING A PHARMACIST TO THE PERIANESTHESIA RESOURCE TEAM

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Our hospital uses an Electronic Medical Administration Record (EMAR) to review and approve medications for patients
- The Perianesthesia area does not have access to EMAR
- Any medications not stocked in our Omnicell are obtained from the central pharmacy which can take an extended period of time
- Postoperatively the patient’s regular medications may not be ordered.
- Some medication doses are weight based
- Staff may not be familiar with new medications used in the perianesthesia area

OBJECTIVES OF PROJECT:

- To have a pharmacist check all medications for the Perianesthesia patients
- To obtain medications in a timely fashion
- To ensure that all the medications patients need are reordered postoperatively
- To verify that the correct dose has been ordered
- To educate staff on any medications they are unfamiliar with

PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION:

- A pharmacist is now assigned to the Perianesthesia area 5 days per week 7A-11P and weekends and holidays from 7A – 3:30P
- If the pharmacist is not readily available in the area they can be contacted via a beeper
- For the hours that a pharmacist is not available in the Perianesthesia area the main pharmacy is the resource

STATEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE:

- Medications can now be obtained in a timely fashion
- All of the patients’ preoperative medications are being ordered postoperatively
- If the wrong dose is ordered the pharmacist informs the RN and contacts the Doctor to correct the dose
- Coffee Talks have been implemented once a month with either a Question and Answer session or an identified subject
- Nurses can feel certain that they are medicating the right patient with the right medication, the right dose, the right time and the right route

IMPLICATIONS FOR ADVANCING THE PRACTICE OF PERIANESTHESIA NURSING:

- Having a pharmacist available in the Perianesthesia area provides another professional resource for the Perianesthesia nurses and our Doctors as well
- Questions that may arise are immediately addressed and any problems corrected immediately