Examining ASPAN Standards

Objectives
- Describe the purpose of standards of care
- Discuss how to apply the ASPAN Standards for Perianesthesia Nursing Practice to common situations in your work environment

Standards of Care
- All professions have standards of care
- Minimal level of expertise that must be delivered to the patient
- Starting point for acceptable nursing care
Standards of Care

- Set internally or externally
  - Internal pertain to individual practitioner or institution
  - External pertain to nurses in all states and territories
  - Helps define scope of practice

Standards of Care

- Found in
  - State nurse practice act
  - Published standards of professional organizations and specialty practice groups (ASPAN, AORN, ANA)
  - Federal agency guidelines and regulations
  - Hospital policy and procedure manuals
  - Individual nurse’s job description
  - Manufacturer’s published materials
  - Inservice films/materials

Standards of Care

- Nurses are accountable for all standards of care as they pertain to their profession
  - To maintain competence and skill
    - Read professional journals, attend pertinent continuing nursing education programs
Standards of Care

• Determined for the judicial system by expert witnesses
  – ‘Court sees deviations from nursing standards’
• Experts testify to the prevailing standards in the community
  – These are standards that all nurses are accountable for matching or exceeding
  – Adherence to such standards ensures that patients receive quality, competent nursing care

Standards of Care

• In specialty practice areas
  – Courts are almost universally holding health care providers to a national standard of care
• Reasons
  – All have access to same information/educational opportunities
  – Most important: all patients have the right to quality health care regardless of where that care is delivered - small or large, rural or urban

What are the current ASPAN Standards?

2012-2014
# Name Change

- **OLD**: 2010-2012 Perianesthesia Nursing Standards and Practice Recommendations
- **NEW**: 2012-2014 Perianesthesia Nursing Standards, Practice Recommendations and Interpretive Statements
  - This updated text contains standards of perianesthesia nursing practice, evidence-based clinical practice guidelines, practice recommendations, position statements, resources from partnering organizations and NEW this edition, *interpretive statements*.

## ASPAN Standards Include

- **Standards**: generic statements which best describe the desirable and achievable level of performance
- **Guidelines**: developed from systematic review of literature and research, a prime tool for evidence-based practices, and require frequent updating as new information becomes available
- **Practice Recommendations**: which best describe the desirable and achievable level of performance expected of perianesthesia registered nurses

## ASPAN Standards Include

- **Position Statements**: represent an organization’s viewpoint on a particular issue
- **Resources**: recommendations for practice based primarily on expert consensus, expertise and opinion from partnering organizations
- **NEW: INTERPRETIVE STATEMENTS** provided in sidebar format offer clarification, definitions and examples
What are your needs?
What would make your practice easier?
What would make patient care safer?

**2012-2014 Standards**
- Effective December 2012
- Revised and expanded
- Includes
  - Scope of Practice
  - Principles of Perianesthesia Practice
    - Ethical Practice
    - Safety
  - 6 Standards
  - 3 Clinical Practice Guidelines (posted on web site)
  - 10 Practice Recommendations
  - 10 Position Statements
  - 3 Resources

**2012-2014 Changes**
- Introduction expanded
  - Introduced the sidebar concept for Interpretive Statements

- New***
  - Interpretive Statements: this format allows for the opportunity to provide clarification and add detail to the context of the standards
Scope of Perianesthesia Nursing Practice

- Preanesthesia level of care
  - Preadmission
  - Day of surgery/procedure
- Postanesthesia levels of care
  - Phase I
  - Phase II
  - Extended Care
- Settings

Perianesthesia Standards for Ethical Practice

- Competency, responsibility to patients, professional responsibility, collegiality, research, advocacy
- Application to practice
  - Nurse refuses to attend unit inservices - always staffs so others can attend
  - Witness break in sterile technique while procedure performed, remains quiet

Principles of Safe Perianesthesia Practice

- ASPAN’s core values for a culture of safety include
  - Communication
  - Advocacy
  - Competency
  - Efficiency
  - Timeliness
  - Teamwork
2012 - 2014 Standards

I. Patient Rights
II. Environment of Care
III. Staffing and Personnel Management
IV. Quality Improvement
V. Research and Clinical Inquiry
VI. Nursing Process

Clinical Practice Guidelines

- Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guideline for the Promotion of Perioperative Normothermia
- Clinical Guideline for Pain and Comfort
- Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guideline for the Prevention and/or Management of PONV/PDNV

All guidelines available on ASPAN Web Site

Practice Recommendations

1. Patient Classification/Staffing Recommendations

1A. Staffing Recommendation and Management of the Patient on Precautions
PR 1 - Patient Classification/Staffing Recommendations

- **SIDEBAR**
  - It is difficult to prescribe staffing ratios for the day of surgery/procedure units based on wide variations across the country in the role and function of the nursing staff in these units
  - When considering staffing patterns, patient safety is of highest priority with plans to accommodate patients with high acuity needs

**PR 1 - Patient Classification/Staffing Recommendations**

- **SIDEBAR**
  - The intent of this standard is that a nurse providing care to a Phase I patient is not left alone with the patient
  - The second nurse should be able to directly hear a call for assistance and be immediately available to assist

**PR 1 - Patient Classification/Staffing Recommendations**

- **SIDEBAR**
  - Appropriate staffing requirements should be met to prioritize the safe, competent nursing care for the immediate postanesthesia patient, or the patient with the highest level of care needs, in addition to the care of the blended patient population
  - Patient safety is of highest priority
Practice Recommendations

2. Components of Initial, Ongoing, and Discharge Assessment and Management changed to Components of Assessment for the Perianesthesia Patient

3. Equipment for Preanesthesia/Day of Surgery Phase, PACU Phase I, Phase II, and Extended Care

4. Recommended Competencies for the Perianesthesia Nurse

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Practice Recommendations

5. Competencies of Perianesthesia Support Staff

6. Safe Transfer of Care: Handoff and Transportation

7. The Role of the RN in the Management of Patients Undergoing Sedation for Short-Term Therapeutic, Diagnostic, or Surgical Procedures

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Practice Recommendations

8. Fast Tracking the Ambulatory Surgery Patient

9. Visitation in the Perianesthesia Care Unit

10. NEW*** Obstructive Sleep Apnea in the Adult Patient

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2012-2014 Retirements

- Position Statements
  - Minimum Staffing in Phase I PACU
    - Now has a PR
  - The Nursing Shortage
  - Visitation in Phase I
    - Now has a PR
  - Perianesthesia Safety
    - Elevated to Perianesthesia Principles

Position Statements

1. Perianesthesia Patient with a Do-Not-Resuscitate Advance Directive
2. Registered Nurse Utilization of Unlicensed Assistive Personnel
3. “On Call/Work Schedule”
4. ICU Overflow

Position Statements

5. Med-Surg Overflow
6. Safe Medication Administration
7. Older Adult
8. Pediatric Patient
9. Workplace Violence in the Perianesthesia Settings
Position Statements

10. NEW** Substance Abuse in Perianesthesia Practice
- Specialty practice areas have higher levels of substance
- These areas involve physical, emotional and/or mental stress that may cause nurses to turn to substances
- Also have a rather wide range of access to and availability of controlled substances

Resources

2. American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) Standards:
   - Statement on Routine Preoperative Laboratory and Diagnostic Screening
   - ASA Basic Standards for Preanesthesia Care
   - ASA Standards for Postanesthesia Care
   - NEW*** ASA Standards for Basic Anesthetic Monitoring

Resources

3. Association for Radiologic & Imaging Nursing (ARIN) Clinical Practice Guideline: Handoff Communication Concerning Patients Undergoing a Radiological Procedure with General Anesthesia
To Purchase Standards

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Bibliography


Thank you!