

**THE LIFE OF A SAFETY STICKER:
AWARENESS OF RISK TO PREVENT OPIOID-INDUCED RESPIRATORY
DEPRESSION**

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Background Information related to the problem identification:

Patients not meeting discharge criteria due to decreased oxygen saturation experienced increased length of stay. Nurses researched the literature and identified a process to advocate for these patients. The process included the entire perioperative team and identified patients at risk for opioid-induced respiratory depression.

Objectives of project:

- Identify patients at risk of post-op opioid-induced respiratory depression
- Improve communication of targeted patients to the perioperative team
- Educate staff about a new Safety Sticker initiative

Process of Implementation:

Nurses working with anesthesia providers and surgeon leaders expanded the use of the Safety Sticker by incorporating the STOP-Bang Tool. A staff nurse from each surgical area championed the initiative by providing educational support and competency validation. Each patient is evaluated preoperatively for potential respiratory depression related to Obstructive Sleep Apnea.

Statement of the successful practice:

All nurses are completing individualized plan of care related to this initiative and placing a Safety Sticker on the chart. Interdisciplinary team members are using the Safety Sticker for clinical decisions in the area of medication administration and appropriate level of care. A Safety Sticker audit is ongoing to assess the prevalence of OSA.

Implications for advancing the practice of perianesthesia nursing:

Perianesthesia nurses are concerned about patient outcomes and more proactive. Nurses are actively collaborating with anesthesia regarding medication choices that affect the respirations. Patients are included in the consideration and use of nonpharmacological interventions. The patient individual plan of care is modified to improve patient outcomes.