

INNOVATIVE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE MEANINGFUL LEARNING

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Meaningful learning refers to the concept that knowledge is not rote memorization, but fully understood. Annual competencies that are not purposeful and interesting lead to staff disengagement. This can be avoided by using various levels of simulation and forms of technology to evaluate competency. Our objective is to provide mandatory annual competency education to perianesthesia staff in a meaningful manner.

Different levels of simulation were utilized for annual competencies. The competency validations were conducted in our simulation lab. The competencies were divided into three different stations. One station involved hands on return demonstrations of point of care competencies including blood glucose and multisticks. The second station included three patients of different ages staged with age specific, falls, and restraint hazards. A discussion was led by a facilitator to identify the age specific and safety considerations. The third station was a simulation scenario that included hands on activities including medication administration, moderate sedation, and airway management.

Technology has provided us with tools to create meaningful learning opportunities during mandatory annual educational competencies. The response from the staff was overwhelmingly positive and has increased staff engagement because they feel the education is worthwhile.

Accessibility to meaningful education is essential to furthering the practice of perianesthesia nursing. Maintaining competencies and teaching the newest advances allow staff to be advocates for the safe care of patients. The use of technology is imperative in connecting with the next generation of perianesthesia nurses. Technology enables nurse educators to provide the education necessary to advance our practice.