

GETTING TO KNOW YOU - PEDIATRIC PATIENTS IN ADULT PACU

Team Leader: Sarah Easthope, RN, BSN

University of Michigan Hospitals and Health Centers, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Team members: Denise O'Brien, DNP, RN, ACNS-BC, FAAN, CPAN, CAPA;

Nancy Strzyzewski, MSN, RN, CPAN, CAPA; Toni Szpara, BSN, RN, CAPN, CAPA, CCRN

Background Information:

- PACU nurse apprehension related to caring for new patient population, Pediatric Radiology-Oncology
- PACU Nurse concern for patient safety and family satisfaction due to lack of experience with pediatric patients

Objectives of Project:

- Improve nurse confidence and knowledge with this new patient population
- Ensure continuity of care and patient safety
- Perform ongoing evaluation of new system

Process of Implementation:

- Identify staff concerns and education needs
- Educator presented comprehensive pediatric perianesthesia care review
- Adult and Pediatric PACU meeting to identify standards of care and age appropriate needs
- Child Life Specialist utilized to work with patients and parents to help them understand and cope with the experience
- Individualized patient folder created with all resource components including 'care tips' sheet specific to the patient
- Seek input from bedside nurses regarding implementation

Statement of Successful Practice:

- Nursing education needs identified and addressed
- Comprehensive care plan developed specifically for each patient
- Ongoing improvements to system as identified
- Nurses more confident with caring for this type of patient
- Patients and parents confident with care received

Implications for Advancing Practice:

- By identifying and responding to the source of nurse apprehension, PACU is able to care safely and effectively for increasingly diverse populations
- Considering implementing the same approach of individualized patient folders for all pediatric patients coming to the PACU