

GETTING TO SUCCESS: SUPPORTING STAFF NURSES TO ENHANCE PRACTICE AND PROFESSIONALISM

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Background information related to problem identification: Perianesthesia nurses are creative and imaginative. They discover new ideas and generate new methods to improve patient care and support practice in the perianesthesia setting. However, many lack the skills or resources needed to develop and implement their ideas. Additionally, the knowledge of how to present the project is not typically learned by nurses. Projects on the unit floundered or were never implemented due to lack of identified need for the project and coordination with the unit leadership.

Objectives of project: Create an organized process to support and encourage staff nurses to successfully complete practice and educational projects in the perianesthesia setting.

Process of implementation: The Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) and Educational Nurse Coordinators (ENCs) developed a process and tools to guide the staff nurse from idea generation to project completion. The staff nurse met with the CNS or ENCs to structure the idea and throughout the project. The process includes meeting with medical librarians and unit resource leaders. The staff nurse is coached through implementation of the project and dissemination (poster, oral presentation, or manuscript development).

Statement of the successful practice: To enhance practice and professionalism, perianesthesia staff nurses have a structured process to guide them from idea generation to implementation and dissemination, supported by the CNS and ENCs.

Implications for advancing the practice of perianesthesia nursing: Staff nurse engagement in unit practice, professional development, skill building, sharing knowledge with the broader perianesthesia nursing community leads to improved patient care and nurse satisfaction.