

**PRIMARY NURSING IN THE PERI-ANESTHESIA SETTING:
“I’LL BE HERE WHEN YOU WAKE UP”**

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Background: After adopting the Relationship Based Care model of nursing care at our institution, members of the staff recognized the need for primary care nursing across the perioperative setting. Staff approached the nurse leader with the proposed idea of cross training PSC and PACU staff, so that one nurse could provide care for a patient from the pre- admission process throughout the post operative recovery phases.

Objective: Our objectives with implementing a primary nurse role included decreasing hand-offs between staff and improving continuity of care for our patients. The focus was primarily on the outpatient population and short stay patients.

Implementation: Both PSC and PACU nurses volunteered to cross training to either area. PSC to PACU cross-training took three months, while PACU to PSC cross-training took two weeks. Once three nurses completed the orientation process, the project was implemented.

Successful practice: There has been an overwhelming positive response from patients appreciating the individualized care provided by our nurses. Anesthesia and surgical staff have recognized the value of the continuity of care as well as the ease in transfer of care.

Implications for advancing practice: Primary nursing in the perioperative setting has increased staff job satisfaction, decreased hand-offs, improved continuity of care and increased patient satisfaction.