

ENGAGING EMPLOYEES IN ROBOTIC SURGERY ACROSS THE PERIOPERATIVE CARE CONTINUUM

Team Leader: Amanda Knoll, RN, BSN
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania
Team Member: Stephanie Nelson, RN, CNOR

An active robotic surgical service at an Academic, Community, Magnet designated, Level One Trauma Center expanded their repertoire by implementing the single-site gallbladder procedure. Prior to the onset of the first procedure, nursing leadership sought to ensure staff competency and familiarity with robotics across the Perioperative care continuum. The managers within Perianesthesia and the Operating Room environments partnered to develop an action plan for nurses in these settings. An educational visit to an Epicenter currently performing single-site gallbladder procedure allowed the OR Manager to gain and share much needed information and knowledge. Mock procedures allowed the OR team specifically trained in robotic surgery to participate in a simulation environment to achieve single-site surgery competencies for the team members. Through these interactions, additional interest in viewing actual procedures was gained. Management set up observations for the Perianesthesia staff members to allow additional insight into caring for the patients both preoperatively and postoperatively.

As a result of the comprehensive education and involvement of all teams, the entire perioperative care continuum was prepared for the addition of the single-site gallbladder procedure. The employees involved immersed themselves in the care of the robotic patient, which resulted in an enhanced knowledge base. The additional effort by the management team created a collaborative approach to training and enriched the patient and family centered experience.