

## **OUCH! INCREASING IV INSERTION SUCCESS RATE ON FIRST ATTEMPT IMPROVING THE PATIENT EXPERIENCE**

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### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

All patients require vascular access placement prior to surgery. In the Pre Surgical Center (PSC), each of the 9 (PSC) RNs was responsible for IV placement before the patient went into the OR. Establishing vascular access in our patient population is challenging due to arm precautions and recent chemotherapy. There was variable first IV attempt success rate due to the variety of tenure, experience and skill level of the PSC RNs. The first attempt success rate ranged daily between 79-93% (n=127). This was painful and anxiety provoking for the patient. We recognized an opportunity for improvement.

### **OBJECTIVES OF PROJECT:**

To increase first attempt IV insertion success rate and improve the patient experience.

### **PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION:**

- An “expert” IV RN was selected among the PSC RNs to insert all IVs
- IV attempts were limited to two
- IV insertion was moved to a dedicated phlebotomy room on the unit rather than the PSC individual patient rooms

### **STATEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE:**

A dedicated expert IV RN and the use of the phlebotomy room to insert IVs improved the daily first attempt success rate. The daily first attempt rate increased from 79-93% (n=127) to 93-100% (n=129).

### **IMPLICATIONS FOR ADVANCING THE PRACTICE OF PERIANESTHESIA NURSING:**

The keys to success were the identification of an “expert” IV RN and a dedicated phlebotomy room where interruptions and distractions are minimized. This has future implications for all areas where IVs are required.