

STROKE CENTER READINESS IN THE PACU

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Our institution is certified as the first Comprehensive Stroke Center in Missouri. This recognizes the commitment of our hospital to deliver complex stroke care to patients in the hospital and the community. During certification survey, there were opportunities noted for improvement. The PeriAnesthesia Care Unit (PACU) cares for carotid endarterectomies and carotid artery stent placement patients pre- and post-operatively and also discharges these patients after a 23 hour stay. Due to this the PACU aligned with neuro- sciences to coordinate care of these patients and to prepare for the next survey.

OBJECTIVES OF PROJECT:

The PACU staff will understand the necessary components of treating patients with potential for stroke. Documentation of education will increase.

PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION:

The Clinical Nurse Specialist for neurosciences held monthly meetings with the educators from involved disciplines to make action plans and monitor progress throughout the year. All neurosurgical patients discharged from the hospital were required to have specific and involved education and this needed to be completed in the PACU for any neurosurgery patient discharge. The PACU educator provided education to the PACU staff to ensure that patients received the required education on signs and symptoms of stroke, what to do if a stroke is suspected, lifestyle changes to decrease their chance of stroke, and how their personal risk factors impact their chance of a stroke prior to discharge. The documentation of education was audited in the electronic medical record and reported monthly to staff. The PACU orientation process was changed for new hires to include the new discharge protocol.

STATEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE:

Audits were done on the documentation of education which increased to the 90% required for recertification. PACU staff understood their role in providing patient education to all neurosurgical patients throughout the perioperative period. The hospital passed the Level One Stroke Center review in summer of 2014.

IMPLICATIONS FOR ADVANCING THE PRACTICE OF PERIANESTHESIA NURSING:

Neuroscience patients are receiving the appropriate postoperative education and will better manage their health with this information.