

TRANSITIONS: TRANSFERRING A LEVEL I TRAUMA CENTER AND COMBINING PREOP, PHASE I, & PHASE II UNITS

Team Leaders: Donna Bernard MSN RN CGRN, Myra Cain-Houston MSN RN CAPA, Lori Fowler-Gagliardi MBA RN CNOR, Julie Thomas MSN RN CPAN
Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Team Member: Jennifer Fraccaroli BSN RN CCRN

Background Information: Penn Medicine, including the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP) and Presbyterian Medical Center (PPMC) in Philadelphia, PA, was the first health system in the country to relocate a Level I Trauma Center.

This transition included the construction of a new building with space for a combined preoperative and postoperative (Phase I and Phase II) patient care unit. Multiple locations were combined into one location, the PeriOperative Care Unit (PCU) including: Preoperative Area, Holding, Phase I Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) and Phase II Short Procedure Unit (SPU).

Objectives of Project: The clinical nurses in all four areas required cross training to each specialty area by the opening date of January 12, 2015. The transition of the Level 1 Trauma Center from HUP to PPMC in February 2015 required the clinical nurses to also obtain additional education on caring for the trauma and neurosurgery populations.

Process of Implementation: Planning for the combination of unit and the trauma transition continued from January 2012 to December 2014. These transition meetings included building design, equipment needs, and staffing matrixes. An educational gap analysis was completed, needs were identified, and competencies were developed to cross train all clinical staff. Trauma and neurosurgery education plans were also implemented.

Statement of Successful Practice: As the first health system in the country to relocate a Level I Trauma Center, our PCU leadership team, clinical nurses, and staff met the challenge. Phase II nurses, with an average of 19 years of clinical nursing experience, completed an 8 hour Phase I Review Course. The course included didactic, simulation, and hands-on segments on Phase I competency topics. The average baseline pretest scores of 23 clinical nurses was 72.9%. Following the Phase I Review Course, the average post-test scores of the same clinical nurses was 79.7%. A second post-test will be conducted in October 2015. All PCU nurses attended the Trauma Nurse Course within one year of the trauma transition.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Other hospitals undergoing a trauma transition or combining multiple Preop/Postoperative areas can learn from PPMC's experiences.