

## **THE INTEGRATION OF PERIANESTHESIA CERTIFIED NURSES INTO AN AMBULATORY SPECIALTY TREATMENT CENTER**

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**Background information related to problem identification:** In 2013, the Ambulatory Surgical Center Post Anesthesia Care nurses assumed responsibility for recovering pediatric patients receiving general anesthesia in our Proton Therapy Center (PTC). The Proton Therapy Center is a freestanding ambulatory center with a three bay recovery area. Due to staffing, Magnet and Joint Commission requirements, it was determined that Certified Post Anesthesia Care nurses would be the preferred providers of nursing care. Certified nurses practice in accordance with ASPAN standards and practice recommendations in the care of the anesthetized pediatric patient population. The perioperative nurses who were volunteering to transition to the Proton Center were mostly adult outpatient PACU nurses with previous pediatric recovery experience, but limited knowledge and experience in Radiation Oncology.

**Objectives:** To improve the environment of care and promote optimum patient outcomes to our Proton Therapy Center pediatric patients. Our process used current Joint Commission standards, institutional policies and procedures, and ASPAN standards of care.

### **Process of Implementation:**

- Collaboration with a multidisciplinary team of clinical leadership, nursing staff, educators, and executive nursing leadership to develop competency, education, training and staffing support.
- Improving the environment of care by installing emergency call lights, sharps boxes, hand sanitizers, privacy curtains, regulating traffic through PACU and adding pediatric friendly décor to the room.
- Improving the nursing process by creating and/or improving documentation including order sets, care plans, discharge instructions and fall/pain document.
- Staffing and personnel management including competency and skills check-off, ACLS and PALS certification with Pediatric Oncologic Emergency classes, and a staff resource book.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** This team implemented a distinct standard of nursing care by implementing Pediatric ASPAN standards, streamlining nursing documentation, developing procedure specific discharge instructions and creating pediatric specific order sets. The staff maintained both adult and pediatric life support certification in order to continue to provide safe patient care.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** It can be challenging to integrate perianesthesia nurses at offsite locations away from resources at their home base. Leadership and administrators, who acknowledge their commitment to nursing excellence, encouraged improvements to be made at the unit level. Perianesthesia nurses can provide a safe environment of care specific to the pediatric patients undergoing anesthesia at offsite locations nationwide.