

PERIANESTHESIA MODEL OF CARE TRANSITION

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Background Information: Daly Perianesthesia Services supports a busy Academic Level 1 Trauma Medical Center averaging 50 pediatric and adult surgical cases per day. The staffing and corresponding schedules have been separate between Pediatric surgery, Preop and PACU. Patient flow was unpredictable and it was evident that much could be gained by having staff flex and cross train competencies to facilitate care across the perianesthesia continuum. ASPAN Standards of Practice 2015-2017 states nurses must “consult, collaborate and cooperate with colleagues, peers, supervisors and other healthcare providers in a professional manner to improve quality, effectiveness and efficiency of patient care.”

OR holds were at an all-time high in the summer of 2013. On average the OR held 50 cases per month due to lack of availability of competent phase I nurses. Nurses were available with other skill sets, but not to recover postoperative patients. The OR leadership team discussed potential solutions and decided on a new perianesthesia model of care.

Objectives of Project: To decrease operating room holds and allow for efficient and safe care of the patient by undergoing a comprehensive cross training of perianesthesia nurses.

Process of Implementation: A cross training plan was developed to realign the nurses. Selected nurses began a very intense orientation which would allow them to be flexible and work in both the Preop and PACU. The Pediatric nurses were also incorporated into cross training to adult areas secondary to an inconsistent pediatric volume.

The cross training began over the summer of 2013 and increased in intensity during the fall 2013. A Clinical Nurse Coordinator position was also added in August 2013 to help assist in the success of cross training and the fluidity of moving nurses to meet the needs of our surgical patients.

Statement of Successful Practice: With the cross training ongoing and the new clinical nurse coordinator position in place, the OR holds dropped to an average of 25 cases per month. The percentage of nurses cross trained increased by 14%.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: With a more challenging health care outlook this model of care is advancing the skills of the perianesthesia nurse and providing a better economic landscape.