

PERIANESTHESIA COPING PLAN FOR PEDIATRIC PATIENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM AND BEHAVIORAL DISORDERS

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Background Information: CHOA is one of the leading hospitals in the south for Pediatrics, located beside the Marcus Autism Center. With increasing numbers of patients coming for surgery with the diagnosis of ASD and Behavioral Disorders we decided to work with the Marcus Autism Center to develop a coping plan for the day of surgery.

Objectives of Project: We gathered a multidisciplinary team that consisted of Marcus Autism staff, Day Surgery, Anesthesia, OR, PACU and Child Life to look at each phase of care and develop tools to better prepare staff for the needs of the ASD patients. We also wanted to work with Marcus Autism to educate the Surgical Services staff on ASD and help them understand the best ways to interact with the child to promote a positive surgical experience.

Process of Implementation: We started with our Preop clinic by screening patients for ASD or Behavioral disorders. Once identified the nurse practitioner calls the parents and uses prescreening tool to find out the dos and don'ts for surgery. She also explains our process and develops an individual plan for day of surgery. We developed a coping plan that stays on the chart and has information for each phase of care for the staff to review prior to receiving the child.

Statement of Successful Practice: We piloted the process on a few of our ASD/Behavioral Disorder patients and the response from staff and parents was positive. Staff felt better prepared to care for the individual needs of the patients and when possible brought the family back to the PACU as the child woke up.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: The pilot was successful and we are moving forward with finalizing and sharing the pre op screening and coping plans with the entire system. We will work with EPIC to make the coping plan a permanent part of the patient record and following up with post op phone calls to measure parent satisfaction.