

OUTSIDE YOUR COMFORT ZONE: WHERE THE LEARNING HAPPENS!

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Background: The shift from inpatient hospitalizations to available outpatient services has taken place over the last decade. It continues to change with reimbursement based on performance and patient satisfaction. The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania constructed a Cardiac Catheterization Lab in the ambulatory care setting; this lab introduced a new patient population to the Perioperative SurgiCentre perianesthesia nursing staff. This new lab involved patients who needed femoral line arterial removals and management of the cardiac disease processes.

Objectives of Project: The objectives of the project were multifaceted: focused education to ensure competency, overcoming barriers to change and strategies to promote staff engagement.

Process of Implementation: The first step for implementation included a learning needs assessment. A gap analysis was conducted based on the care of the cardiac / vascular patient population. The education plan was based on the results of the analysis. Weekly in-services and focused bedside one on one teaching occurred. In addition, an inpatient cardiac catheterization resource nurse participated in the education. The short time line for implementation guided the development of “nurse experts” as a core group of nurses competent to care for the new patient population.

Statement of successful practice: The Surgicentre perianesthesia nursing staff successfully demonstrated confidence and competence in clinical knowledge to care for this patient population. Enhanced knowledge of the cardiac system and cardiac disease processes created a foundation for safe, high quality patient care. The core group of recovery nurses successfully discontinued femoral arterial sheaths and assessed the patients to prevent post procedure complications.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Practice: The evolution of healthcare delivered outside the typical “inpatient setting” will provide the opportunity for perianesthesia nurses to advanced their knowledge and enhance their practice.