

## **EMPOWERING PACU NURSES TO LEAD AND MANAGE AN EMERGENT EVENT**

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**Background Information:** Rapid growth and expansion of our medical facility created a delay in response time for the code blue hospital team. Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) nursing team determined there was a need to develop and empower PACU nurses for emergent cardiopulmonary issues. The American Heart Association consensus statement on the quality of CPR emphasized team management as a way to improve quality of resuscitation.

**Objectives of Project:** The project objective was to build knowledge/ skills that allow the PACU nurses to confidently identify and manage an emergent event in a timely manner, in order to improve patient outcomes and empower nurses in their role.

### **Process of Implementation:**

- Identified the need for improved response given an emergent event
- Evaluated resources and developed education plan
- Presented plan to PACU leadership and Anesthesiologist
- Assessed the knowledge and skill base of PACU nurses pre and post project implementation
- Nurses were educated with skill stations and case scenario reviews to build confidence in roles during an emergent event.
- Written information and data provided
- A daily staffing grid was developed, allowing nurses to voluntarily sign up for a specific role, ensuring the nurse was confident in their ability to perform their role.
- Ongoing education provided to build confidence in the various roles.
- Ongoing evaluation of the process allows for improvement in the process and patient outcomes

**Statement of Successful Practice:** An anonymous survey was given to the nurses prior to implementation of defined code roles and training. The survey indicated that 69% of the nursing team was not competent in use of current defibrillator pads and 35% of the nursing team was not confident functioning as team lead during an emergent airway event. The post implementation survey indicates that 100% of the respondents were able to correctly identify placement and proper use of defibrillator pads, 76% of respondents indicated confidence in emergent airway management, and 100% of respondents stated the training session improved their abilities to provide clinical leadership during emergent situations.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** Implementing an education plan, skills stations, scenario based simulation and voluntary sign up, can empower nurses to develop competencies and prevent failure to rescue in the PACU setting.