

## **PERIANESTHESIA NURSING EDUCATION: PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF POSTOPERATIVE NAUSEA AND VOMITING**

Team Leader: Kathleen Hubbard MSN RN CPAN

Penn Medicine Chester County Hospital, West Chester, Pennsylvania

**Background Information:** Approximately one third of surgical patients will experience postoperative nausea and vomiting (PONV). To provide cost-effective, safe, and quality health care the perianesthesia nurse must be well-informed of current and relevant research findings that are applicable in the clinical setting. Barriers at our institution to applying evidence-based practice include insufficient time to review research, cost of educational programs, and the absence of a dedicated institution perianesthesia nurse educator.

**Objectives of Project:** The objective of this project was to educate perianesthesia nurses in the use of evidence-based guidelines to prevent and manage PONV in the adult surgical patient.

### **Process of Implementation:**

- Information to assess the learning needs of the post anesthesia care unit (PACU) nurse was collected from a nursing needs assessment and a pretest of the topic area.
- A review of literature was completed on current evidence-based practice for the prevention and management of PONV in the adult surgical patient.
- An educational module was developed, implemented, and evaluated.
- The educational module was formatted as a narrated PowerPoint presentation, sent to each staff member's hospital email account or home account depending on individual preference.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** Data analysis compiled from evaluation tools, provided evidence that the educational module on evidence-based practice guidelines was successfully conveyed to PACU nurses. All nurses 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that the program increased their understanding of the topic, considered the topic relevant to practice, and were able to easily access the module. The findings suggest that an electronically formatted educational module can be a viable alternative to a traditional lecture-based program.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** Educational modules can be tailored to the unit specific needs of any one particular PACU and made accessible and available to the nurse wherever a computer is located. Continuing education can provide nurses with scientific knowledge that supports evidence-based practice in perianesthesia nursing.