

COLLABORATING WITH INPATIENT RN COLLEAGUES: AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENHANCE THE PREOPERATIVE AND POSTANESTHESIA PATIENT EXPERIENCE

Team Leaders: Mary Briggs RN BAN CAPA, Sasha Sakurets RN BSN, Melissa Sergot RN-BC BSN
University of Minnesota Medical Center and Masonic Children's Hospital,
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Background Information: This is an ongoing project to improve the patient transition from the inpatient unit to the Preoperative unit and from PACU back to the inpatient unit. The goals in this phase of process improvement are to provide the inpatient RN with understanding of effective patient preparation for surgery and to offer the best possible perioperative experience for patients and their families.

Objectives of Project:

- Recognize the elements of effective patient preparation for surgery.
- Assess factors in the transition from the inpatient unit to Preop and from PACU to the inpatient unit that contribute to an optimal patient experience.

Process of Implementation:

- Create and implement a voluntary 7.5 ANCC contact hour class for the inpatient unit RN:
 - One-hour didactic lecture on preoperative and preanesthesia preparation, Surgical Site Infection (SSI) prevention, anesthesia and recovery concepts, and postoperative complications.
 - 6.5 hours of Preop and PACU observation with a preceptor to directly observe what the patient experiences in their perioperative day.

Statement of Successful Practice:

- The first phase of this ongoing staff nurse-led process improvement project led to greater satisfaction among patients and their families and the participating staff. (ASPAN CSP Poster 2015)
- The collaborative "Transitions" committee continues to work on process improvement by creating this direct-experience opportunity for the inpatient RN to fully understand the patient's physical and psychosocial needs in the Perioperative period. The measure of success uses a Likert scale evaluation tool and the anecdotal report from the participant to the preceptor about their experience at the end of the day.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Innovative ideas from frontline staff create opportunities for workflow process improvement that also enhance the patient and family experience. Collaboration between historically separate departments (Inpatient Nursing and Perianesthesia) has led to analysis of methods to identify obstacles, increase mutual understanding, and create solutions which benefit patient care and patient and staff satisfaction.