

## **MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS WITH INSULIN PUMPS IN THE PERIOPERATIVE SETTING**

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**Background Information:** The implementation of an institutional policy regarding diabetic patients with insulin pumps in the Perioperative setting posed concerns among nursing team members. Perioperative nursing team observed and identified knowledge deficits and inconsistent management related to the insulin pump dependent patient population. An opportunity was identified to initiate educational in-services and insulin pump resource nurses with a goal to improve patient care.

### **Objectives of Project:**

- Evaluate barriers to nursing care associated with insulin pumps
- Increase staff awareness and compliance related to the institutional insulin pump policy
- Improve collaboration among the health care team members
- Enhance nursing knowledge by creating an insulin pump flowchart to standardize care and ensure sustainability and compliance of flowchart usage
- Promote safe practices in the management of diabetic patients

**Process of Implementation:** An online nursing survey provided to perioperative nursing staff indicated that 81% were not aware of the current policy and management of insulin pumps. In addition, 52% were unable to identify risks associated with care of insulin pumps in the perioperative setting. Furthermore, 96% of clinical nurses requested additional education to improve their knowledge and skills in managing insulin pumps in the perioperative setting. A team of nurses reviewed the institutional policies and developed an action plan. Education related to a new institutional insulin pump policy and a perioperative insulin pump flowchart was created to assure compliance and reduce knowledge deficits among nursing colleagues.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** An Insulin Pump Flowchart was established to standardize patient care. A team of resource nurses were chosen to assure sustainability of the newly developed guidelines. Collaboration amongst interdisciplinary teams to address individual patient needs improved. A post education implementation survey revealed that 92% of perioperative nursing colleague respondents stated improved knowledge of policy, process, and flowchart to assist with management of patients with insulin pumps in the perioperative setting. Post education survey also indicated 98% of nursing team members were able to identify risks associated with insulin pump management in clinical setting as opposed to 52% pre education.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** Education and utilization of an insulin pump management tool in the perioperative setting can enable nurses to provide safe and efficient patient care from admission to discharge.