

## **INVASIVE VENTILATION SEDATION PROTOCOL**

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**Background Information:** With patients having more diverse and complex co-morbidities, the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) has had an increased number of patients requiring long term intubation. These patients are staying in PACU for prolonged periods of time. Prior to this plan the PACU had very few strategies to care for these patients. No clear protocol was in place for long term intubation and the roles of the PACU staff and the Anesthesiologist.

**Objectives of Project:** To ensure patient safety, hemodynamic stability and patient comfort post-operatively, the perioperative team collaborated with the Surgeons, Intensivists and Anesthesiologists to develop a protocol to facilitate a comprehensive plan of care for long term intubation while in the PACU.

**Process of Implementation:** Using a pre-existing Intensive Care Unit order set, and identifying the communication chain, a new protocol has been formulated. After the education of the Peri-operative team and ICU staff, the protocol was implemented.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** The success of this practice encompassed improved patient care and safety, improved PACU nurse satisfaction, and communication with the Peri-operative and ICU staff.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** The Invasive Ventilation Sedation Protocol is used by all staff with clear guidelines to help ease the patients' transition from the PACU to ICU care.