

Post Anesthesia Response Unit: Development of an Intensive Care Unit within a Post Anesthesia Care Unit

Team Leader: Samantha Dandrea, RN, BSN

Team Members: Mary K Rogers RN, BSN, CCRN, CPAN, Shea Beiter RN, BSN, CCRN, CPAN, Martina Landahl RN, BSN

Background

- In January 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic caused limited ICU bed availability at Strong Memorial Hospital.
- Immediate post op critical care patients were staying in the PACU for multiple nights due to over-capacity of critical care units.



Objectives of Project

- Load balance the ICUs by caring for chronic critical care patients in the PACU.
- Empower perioperative staff to become more confident in caring for ICU patients by utilizing a team based nursing model.

Process of Implementation

- Created safe team nursing model by pairing a PACU RN with an Ambulatory Surgical RN, a Pre-Op RN, or a CRNA.
- Configure geographic location for safe patient care within an open concept PACU.
- Collaborated with supply chain and resuscitation council to obtain safety equipment and supplies.
- Daily ICU situational awareness meeting to determine appropriate patients to be cared for in Post Anesthesia Response Unit (PARU).
- Advocated for nurse and patient safety

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Peri Anesthesia Nurses

- Improve interdepartmental relationships between perioperative services and critical care.
- Enhanced emergency preparedness.



Statement of Successful Practice

- PARU's contribution successfully supported the expansion of critical care beds during the influx of patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- During the 46 days PARU was open, there were a total of 26 patients who received care.
 - 3 Discharged to a Long Term Ventilator Unit
 - 11 Transitioned to Med-Surg Floors
 - 6 Returned to the ICU
 - 3 Transitioned to Comfort Measures

“Having the ambulatory nurses and CRNA’s made the PARU work. We could not have done it without them.”– PACU RN

