

Focusing Our Periop Scope on ICU Transfer Nurses
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Background Information: The perioperative setting offers new opportunities for the nurses transitioning from intensive care areas. In the hospital setting, this is a chance to assess the learning needs of a nurse with critical care experience. The more targeted the learning needs assessment, the better the opportunity to provide a focused orientation and shorten the orientation length.

Objectives of Project: At the heart of this plan is a collaborative learning needs assessment specific to the post anesthesia care setting. It is designed as a uniquely collaborative effort between the nurse, the preceptor, the new unit educator and the previous department educator. With the learning needs addressed, a structured, individual-centered orientation focuses on building on prior knowledge, strengths and experience. If executed properly, the collaborative learning needs assessment is invaluable in transitioning the nurse and decreasing the length of orientation.

Process of Implementation: The collaborative learning needs assessment consists of a detailed topics/skills inventory specific to the perioperative setting. The orientee reviewed the inventory and assessed their proficiency on a Likert scale ranging from novice to expert. A meeting between the orientee, preceptor and educators took place to discuss the needs assessment as well as the orientees' preferred methods of learning. The collaboration ensured that the orientee received the best learning opportunities to fit the needs and fill knowledge gaps identified by the learning needs assessment during their orientation.

Statement of Successful Practice: After implementing the collaborative learning needs assessment in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit for nurses transferring from critical care, orientation length decreased by an average of 1.43 weeks. All staff have successfully transitioned off orientation.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of PeriAnesthesia Nursing: The collaborative learning needs assessment allows for a smoother transition for critical care nurses in the perioperative setting. Individualized orientation plans based on collaborative learning needs assessments decrease the length of orientation. Other areas of perianesthesia nursing can benefit from these collaborative efforts.