

Caring for the Transgender Patient in the Perioperative Setting

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Background Information:

- The division of Plastics and Reconstructive Surgery started performing transgender surgeries (Phalloplasty and Vaginoplasty)
- PACU nurses were unfamiliar with this patient population and wanted to continue to educate themselves and to further understand how to care for these patients
- A strong level of nursing expertise is necessary in the immediate post op period to ensure high quality outcomes
- Presentations were done to help educate staff in the OR and were shared with our staff

Objectives of Project:

- To educate nurses on how best to care for the transgender patients pre and post op
- To educate nurses in pre and post op on emotional needs and specialized critical skills needed to care for these patients
- Collaborate with multidisciplinary team to provide a consistent standard of care
- Identify learning needs among staff to safely care for this patient population

Process of Implementation:

- The Plastics and Reconstructive Surgery teams presented to staff
- Handouts were made by the Surgical services with information and care instructions
- Clinical Practice Committee created "tip sheets" to help nurses at the bedside
- PACU nurses that were familiar with caring for other reconstructive surgeries support colleagues in caring for these patients in Phase 1

Statement of Successful Practice:

- Patients are admitted to the PACU for 2-4 hours of specialized care
- Structured education process to orient nurses in caring for this specialized patient population
- Clinical Practice committee to provide education as needed to improve process

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:

- Patients are receiving consistent and safe care during all perioperative phases of care
- Nurses in the Perianesthesia area are working as a team with the surgical teams and leadership to ensure best patient outcomes