

## **Coaching to Knock Our CPAN/CAPA Certification Rates Out of the Park**

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**Background Information:** Subspecialty certification is proven to increase the quality of care delivery, improve patient safety and outcomes, validate professional experience, and strengthen credibility. In 2020, the combined rate of Certified Post Anesthesia (CPAN) and/or Certified Ambulatory Perianesthesia Nurse (CAPA) certified nurses in our Recovery Room and Endoscopy Suite departments was 7%. Although resources and incentives were in place for other certifications such as Certified Perioperative Nurse (CNOR), limited awareness of CPAN/CAPA certification was identified as a barrier for perianesthesia nurses to pursue certification.

**Objectives of Project:** The main objective of this quality improvement work was to increase awareness of and access to CPAN/CAPA certifications and increase the rate of certified nurses by 10% annually.

**Process of Implementation:** In collaboration with unit and nursing leadership, the perianesthesia Clinical Specialist advocated for resources and support for nurses seeking CPAN/CAPA certification. The Surgical Services Shared Leadership Council identified certification rates as a departmental goal in 2021, with interventions implemented over the span of a year. System-level recognitions, such as Perianesthesia Nurse Awareness Week, were celebrated to highlight the subspecialty. Additionally, professional development for perianesthesia clinical leads was prioritized, including support to attend the ASPAN 2021 conference. The American Board of Perianesthesia Nursing Certification (ABPANC) Coach role and voucher program was implemented, and the Clinical Specialist became an ABPANC Coach. Through this program and role, nurses were educated and recruited for the CPAN/CAPA exams. With executive leadership support, the purchase of "Mosby's Orientation to Perianesthesia Nursing by ASPAN" e-Learning course through Elsevier was obtained to help nurses prepare for examination.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** By the end of the 2021, certification rate increased from a baseline of 7% to 10%, representing an increase of 42.86%. With continued access to an ABPANC coach and organizational resources, 2022 certification rates reached 23%, an overall increase of 130% from 2020. These improvements far exceeded the goal of a 10% annual increase.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** Leveraging internal clinical nursing experts as ABPANC coaches may be a successful strategy to increase CPAN/CAPA certification for perianesthesia nurses. As certification is correlated with positive patient and nurse outcomes, increasing rates may lead to improvements in care.