

**Caring for Overflow Patients in the PeriAnesthesia Care Unit:
Creating an Inpatient Unit within the PACU at CHOP**

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Background Information: In healthcare today, patient volume is increasingly exceeding hospital bed availability. During periods of maximum hospital capacity, it becomes necessary for the PACU to provide care to patients requiring admission to an inpatient unit. These patients are then transferred to 4West PACU, the inpatient care area within the PACU at CHOP. The PACU averages 17 years of experience among its 87 nurses. However, when surveyed, many PACU nurses stated they lacked the knowledge regarding inpatient workflows.

Objectives of Project:

- Partner with Facilities to renovate 10 PACU rooms
- Add a second bathroom to the team
- Identify post-surgical patient populations that would be appropriate for admission to the PACU inpatient care area
- Develop a PACU inpatient staffing model
- Survey the staff identifying areas of vulnerability and opportunities for education
- Determine front line clinician (FLOC) coverage
- Develop a detailed learning module outlining the requirements for inpatient documentation in Epic

Process of Implementation:

Quality Improvement project was initiated.

- 10 PACU rooms were renovated and updated by the Facilities and Construction teams
 - Desks and cabinetry removed
- Identified patient populations
 - T&As
 - Urology patients
 - Fractures
 - Cleft palates
 - General surgery patients requiring a 24-hour stay
- Performed a needs assessment with the staff regarding documentation, equipment and support staff involvement
- FLOC coverage was clearly identified
- Supply room was revamped to include both PACU supplies and additional items for inpatient care
- Learning module was developed
 - Brief sessions were held with entire nursing team to outline inpatient documentation

- Data was collected related to subspecialties admitted to 4West and daily patient volumes

Statement of Successful Practice: All objectives outlined at the beginning of the project were met. When staff were resurveyed following implementation, 100% of respondents stated that they felt comfortable caring for 4West inpatients in the PACU.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Ensuring patient safety and excellence in care in an inpatient area.