

## **PeriAnesthesia Education Block**

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**Background Information:** Challenges to RN participation in hospital provided nursing education are time constraints, heavy workloads, poor staffing, inflexible scheduling, fatigue, lack of awareness, and poor managerial involvement. Inadequate continuing education can affect RNs' knowledge, skills, and attitudes on clinical practice, which ultimately affects patient care and outcomes.

**Objectives of Project:** Increase RN active participation in continuing education activities in the perianesthesia setting.

**Process of Implementation:** NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital implemented Education Block Times, which are weekly scheduled sessions for morning and evening PreOp, OR, and PACU nursing staff. Education Block Days are special events education programs that provide learners with multiple education sessions with continuing education credits awarded. The perianesthesia education block provides a space and time for in-services, continuing education programs, guest speaker presentations, simulations, new product demonstrations, policy review and updates, staff announcements, sharing of nursing council information, certification reviews, perianesthesia nursing quality improvement project collaborations, and advertisement of available nursing professional development resources and upcoming education programs. Two peri-anesthesia nursing professional development specialists (NPDS) collaborate to provide nursing education efficiently by coordinating with nursing management for adequate staffing to increase RN attendance, inviting guest content experts, combining education programs, rotating skills workshop sessions, mixing nursing learner groups, maintaining centralized electronic attendance records, using multiple modes of education delivery, and sharing accessible electronic resources with nursing staff.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** The education block times has increased RN participation in educational activities, interaction among the perianesthesia staff, and utilization of the education resources during clinical practice and for professional development such as nursing certification review and clinical ladder program applications.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** While NPDS facilitates the education block times, RNs are encouraged to actively be involved in their education by providing peer education, conducting research, applying new knowledge to practice, and participating in other nursing professional development activities. Support for education block times helps to instill lifelong learning values in RNs, taking charge of their nursing education.