

Hi, I'm Your Consolidation Buddy!

Team Leaders: Roby Roxanne S. Vida BSN RN CCRN CPAN Ashley Kaplan BSN RN CPAN,
Safwan Rahbany BSN RN PHN CPAN CAPA, Sogol Rezvanpour BSN RN,
Walter Vargas MSN RN CPAN CSMRN

Team Members: Rusela Desilva DNP MSN RN PHN NEA-BC CPAN CAPA,
Fina Michelle Meadows MSN RN CPAN CAPA NPD-BC,
Rosalind C. Morris MSN RN PHN CPAN, Kimberly Wesley MSN RN CNML CPAN
Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA

Abstract Background Information: The Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) in an academic medical center in Los Angeles, California, consists of five separate PACUs, four of which consolidate into a 24-hour PACU in the evening. The consolidation process has been identified as a source of stress for nursing staff, leading to decreased staff satisfaction and potential impacts on patient care. Development of an effective consolidation strategy is essential to enhance both patient and staff experience.

Objectives of Project: Develop and implement the role of a consolidation buddy, a nurse assigned to assist other nurses in consolidating patients to the 24-hour PACU, aimed to decrease stress, improve staff satisfaction, and enhance the patient experience.

Process of Implementation: Staff survey feedback was developed to identify factors that cause stress and dissatisfaction. Based on survey results, the role of the consolidation buddy was designed. Each unit is represented by an experienced nurse trained to facilitate the consolidation process. The consolidation buddies are equipped with a to-do list consisting of consolidation action items. Each evening, consolidation buddies collaborate with Triage RN and unit charge nurses to identify the consolidation needs prior to the start of the 8pm consolidation time. Their role included facilitating patient bed placement/discharges and assisting with PACU admissions and patient transfers. Monthly meetings were held to evaluate the ongoing workflow. A follow-up survey was completed post implementation.

Statement of Successful Practice: Post-implementation survey results demonstrated:

- An increase in staff satisfaction regarding the team approach to nursing care from 55% to 80%
- An increase in staff satisfaction regarding receiving assistance by other staff members from 66% to 80%

Anecdotal evidence from staff further supports these findings. The staff expressed that the presence of the consolidation buddy has contributed to reduced stress levels and enhanced feelings of support during the consolidation.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: The implementation of consolidation buddy roles can enhance PACU consolidation, promoting teamwork, decreasing stress, and increasing nurse and patient satisfaction. Improved teamwork fosters a supportive environment, enhancing staff satisfaction and quality of care in the perianesthesia setting.