A Journey to CAPA/CPAN Certification

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Abstract Background Information: Clinical certification offers many patient, nurse and organizational benefits. These include professional growth, increase in job satisfaction, delivery of safe patient care and an understanding of professional practice standards. Efforts to support nurse satisfaction, retention and professional growth served as a driver for this course development initiative.

Objectives of Project: Objectives in developing this CAPA and CPAN certification course include a) an increase in nurse interest in certification b) education of Perioperative nursing staff on ASPAN guidelines and c) prepare nursing staff for the CAPA and CPAN certification exam.

Process of Implementation: Initial implementation was recruitment of staff and leadership approval of professional time compensation. Fall 2022 & Spring 23 was structured as a weekend course held over 16 weeks. For Fall 2023, in the interest of cost reduction, leadership approved a weekend course over 2 weeks. Spring & Fall 2024, the course was given over the weekend for 4 weeks. Classes are 4.5 hours with two 10-minute breaks. The course content included high level overview lectures on topics such as pharmacology, patient populations, body systems and their respective surgical population, as well as ASPAN guidelines for patient care, staffing and safety

Statement of Successful Practice: A subjective increase in nurse interest was noted from Fall 2022 to Fall 2024 though the number of participants who took the class did not reflect this. Formative evaluations were collected prior to didactic class and summative evaluations pre and post class. Average test scores rose by 15% after participants completed the course.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Departmental support of nurses obtaining CAPA and/or CPAN certification can increase retention, increase job satisfaction and advances the practice of perianesthesia nursing by supporting nurses in their professional development.