Walking Dead vs Working Smart: PCT Education at the Zombie PACU Marathon

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Abstract Background Information: Nurse and Patient Care Technician (PCT) Leaders in the General and Trauma PACU units noted that there was a gap in education among PCTs in the various PACUs at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC). PCT leaders noticed that there was discrepancy between the PCT workflow and wanted to have an educational offering that catered to their workflow at the annual PACU education marathon. PCTs undergo education upon their initial onboarding in the PACU unit however, after they are off orientation and working in their specialty units there is no continuing education program for them to participate in.

Objectives of Project: PCTs in the General and Trauma PACU units will participate in an educational offering covering items identified in nurse and PCT needs assessments. PCTs will find the training offered to be hands on and engaging.

Process of Implementation: Partnering with the PACU educator, project leaders created a question and answer like game. The game included questions for PCTs to answer focusing on regulatory requirements and utilizing the ASPAN UAP CBO. Other questions included hands on demonstrations such as foley catheter insertion and 12 lead EKG placement. This game was added as a station at the annual PACU marathon. To add to the hands-on engagement the theme of the marathon was "zombie." Project leaders included PCTs from multiple perioperative units including General PACU, Trauma PACU, North Prep and Recovery, and Pediatric PACU.

Statement of Successful Practice: PCTs across various units will attend the PCT station at the PACU marathon. PCTs will find the station engaging and helpful to their PCT knowledge.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: PCT education is often second to nursing education. PCTs are necessary for workflow in the PACU areas and PCTs are often with patients as just much as nurses at the bedside. Perianesthesia educators and nurse leaders can utilize activities in place to add ways to include PCT in order to grow their teams and provide the level of care that our patients deserve.