

Critical Response: Elevating Brain Attack Care Through Virtual Simulation Training

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Abstract Background Information: The North Prep and Recovery Unit (NPRU) at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) is responsible for the pre-procedure preparations and post-procedure recovery for both inpatients and outpatients undergoing procedures in the Endoscopy, Cardiac Catheterization, and Electrophysiology (EP) laboratories. Many of these patients have preexisting conditions which place them at a higher risk of stroke in the perioperative setting, especially following general anesthesia. Stroke recognition and MRI safety are topics that many staff are aware of but do not use regularly enough to be comfortable with the policies and safety requirements for patients and staff in the area.

Objectives of Project: Nurses and Patient Care Technicians (PCTs) who complete the virtual escape room will gain increased knowledge on stroke identification and MRI safety in an engaging and enjoyable manner.

Process of Implementation: A pretest, consisting of 9 questions on stroke recognition and MRI safety, was administered to staff from the NPRU and Endoscopy laboratory. A knowledge gap was identified and incorporated into education in the form of a virtual escape room. Each year, nurses and PCTs from the NPRU and Endoscopy laboratory attend the PACU education marathon. During this year's marathon, a station was set up specifically for the virtual escape room, where staff were able to work on the game in their own time and at their own pace. The virtual escape room was tailored to their unit policies and workflow and allowed staff to work independently or in small groups of three.

Statement of Successful Practice: Following participation in the virtual escape room staff were administered a post test. Average scores among staff members increased from approximately 77% to >90%, indicating increased competency in the topics addressed. A Likert Scale to gauge staff satisfaction was also utilized, indicating staff found this mode of education enjoyable.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Stroke is an unexpected yet known risk for patients receiving general anesthesia. Early recognition along with thorough knowledge of proper hospital protocol is imperative for providing quality patient care. Utilization of virtual escape rooms offer an exciting opportunity to make learning enjoyable and exciting for adult learners.