

# Charging Ahead: Improving Team Communication Through the Formation of a Charge Nurse Committee



Team Leader: Kelli Hillwig, MSN BSN RN CPAN  
Team Members: Ashley Bandi RN, JoAnna Cahall BSN RN, Robert Magri BSN RN, Jeffrey Mittereder BSN RN CCRN, Chelsea Sardon BSN RN, Kasie Smith MSN BSN RN, Christine Stock BSN RN CPAN



## BACKGROUND

In April of 2024, the PACU adopted a 10-person Charge Nurse committee to address workflow issues.

- Areas for improvement identified:
- Inconsistent charge nurse practices
  - Staff dissatisfaction with workflow
  - Need for improved interdisciplinary communication
    - Anesthesia provider
    - OR RN/CRNA bedside handoff
  - Increased OR holds - increased throughput and discharge times
  - PT/OT relations
    - increased orthostatic episodes
    - equipment in corridors
  - Poor Pharmacy relationship

## ROLE OF CHARGE NURSE

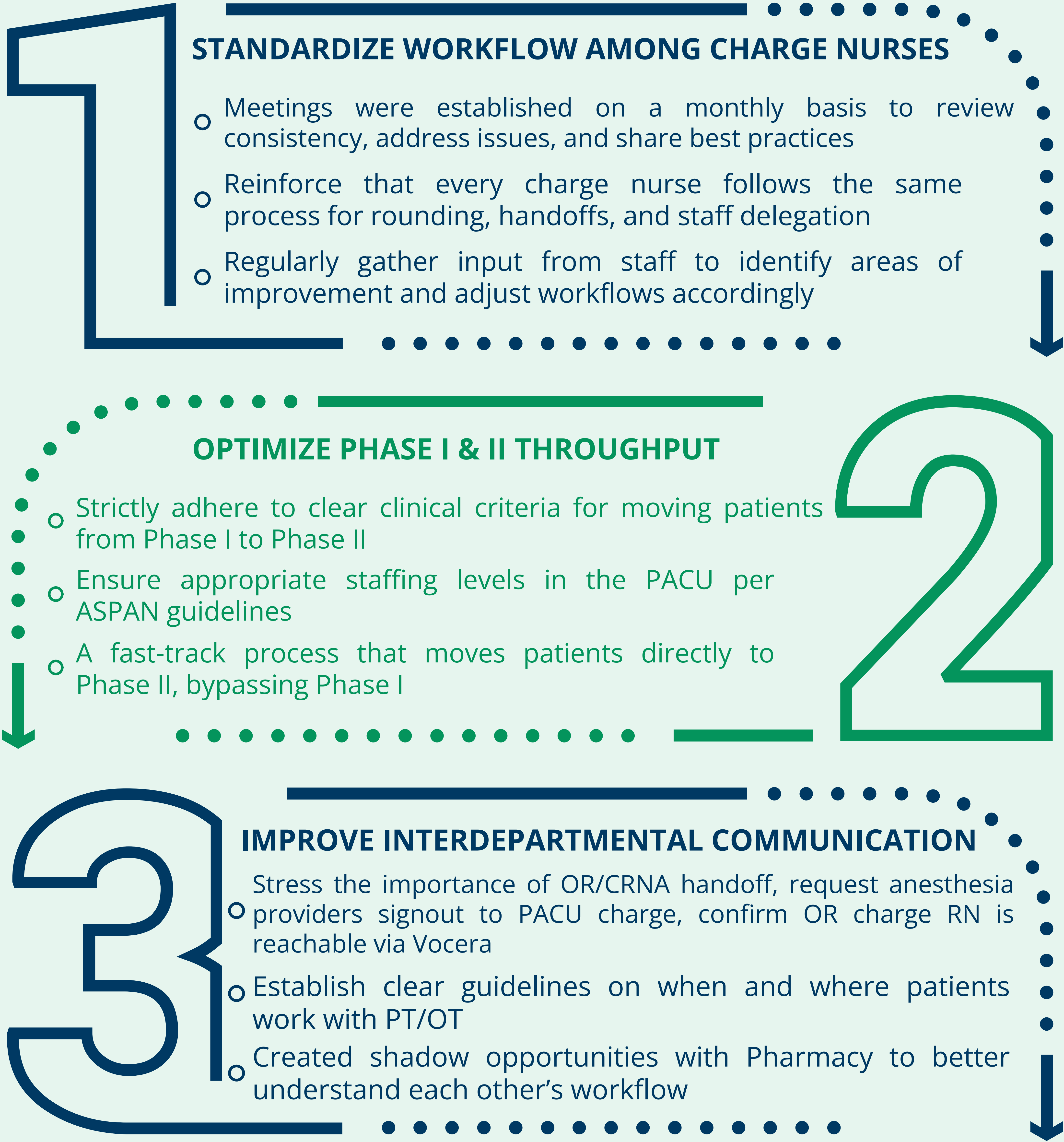
### WEXFORD WORKFLOW

Patient load includes Preop and Recovery for all OR cases, Cath Lab, IR, Gl's, and Pediatrics

- All nurses staff Preop, Phase I & Phase II
- Preop - 12 bays
  - Phase I - 14 bays
  - Phase II - 8 bays

In the month of February - 870 patients went through Wexford Perioperative Units

## PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION



## OBJECTIVES

- To ensure the highest standard of patient care by:
- Addressing clinical challenges
  - Promoting best practices
  - Improving workflows
  - Facilitating interdisciplinary communication

## STATEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE

By providing a collaborative platform for charge nurses to share best practices, address challenges, and implement solutions, the committee has played a pivotal role in evolving the practice of perianesthesia nursing within our PACU.

## IMPLICATIONS FOR PERIANESTHESIA NURSING

- Enhance patient experience
- Foster a supportive, empowered environment for nurses
- Charge nurses act as advocates for staff nurses
- Shape an informed and effective Pre/Post department