

Hi! I'm Your Consolidation Buddy

Perioperative Services Post Anesthesia Care Unit

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Background Information

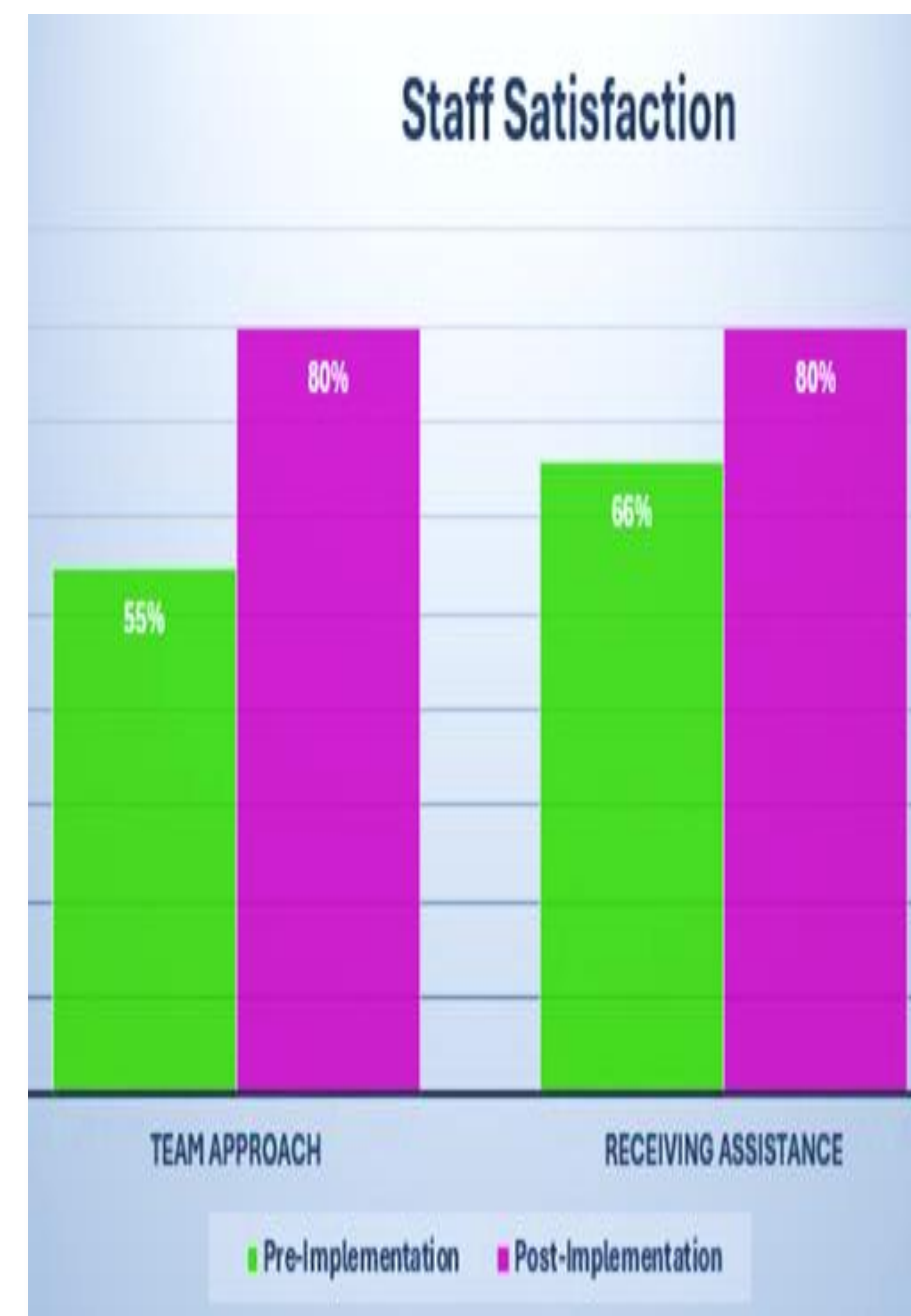
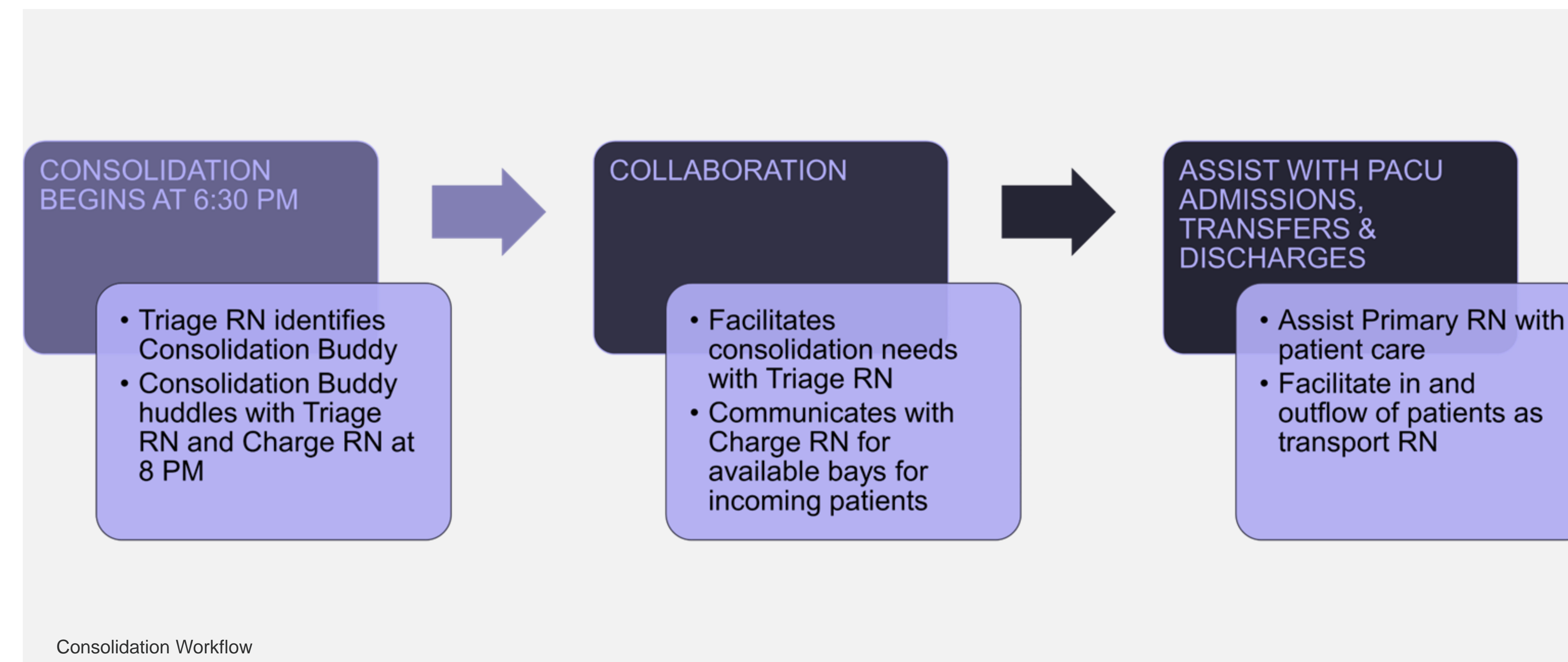
The Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) at Cedars Sinai Medical Center (Los Angeles, California), consists of five separate PACUs, four of which combine into a 24-hour PACU in the evening. The consolidation process was identified as a source of stress for nursing staff, leading to decreased staff satisfaction which can potentially impact patient care. Developing an effective consolidation strategy is essential to enhance both patient and staff experience.

Objectives

- To develop and implement the role of a consolidation buddy, a nurse assigned to assist other nurses in consolidating patients to the 24-hour PACU.
- To enhance the patient and staff experience, the need was identified to develop an effective consolidation strategy.

Process of Implementation

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



Statement of Successful Practice

Post-implementation survey results showed:

- 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 process.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing

The implementation of consolidation buddy roles can enhance PACU consolidation, promote teamwork, decrease stress, and increase nurse and patient satisfaction. Improved teamwork fosters a supportive environment, enhancing staff satisfaction and quality of care in the perianesthesia setting.

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