

Care of the High Acuity PACU Patient: Putting Together the Puzzle

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Background

- An informal needs assessment was conducted among Phase I PACU nursing staff at a 248 bed medical center in Washington State
- Nursing staff highlighted the need for education of complex, high acuity patients in Phase I PACU
- Nurses voiced a lack of knowledge and/or skills related equipment, medication management, and specialty procedures

Objectives

- Learners will be able to summarize key components of recovering the complex patient in PACU
- Learners will apply their knowledge in the clinical setting



Process of Implementation

- Class content was created to meet the most common education requests including care after hybrid ablation MAZE procedures, arterial sheath management, vasoactive medication titration, management of ventilators, and transvenous pacemakers
- Subject matter experts within the organization were recruited to teach the content
- Various adult learning principles were incorporated including lecture, videos, hands on practice with equipment, and Q & A sessions

Statement of Successful Practice

- 87% of the nurses who attended the sessions rated the overall evaluation of the presentation as excellent
- Common themes regarding class content were that the presentations were helpful, added to the nurses knowledge, and provided a good review

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing

As our population continues to age, we are seeing a higher volume of complex recovery patients. Providing need-based education on the care of high-acuity patients may improve nursing competence and confidence in the Phase I PACU setting.

References



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