

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

Marla Sherman, BSN, RN, PCCN, CPAN; Antoinette Morgan, CPCT; Ashley Garcia, MSN, BS, RN, CPAN

General Perianesthesia Care Unit

## BACKGROUND & SIGNIFICANCE

- Educational gaps were noted among the PCTs.
- A decision to offer a Patient Care Technician (PCT) specific station at the 2024 Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) Marathon was made to address these gaps.
- The PACU Marathon provides annual training for all PACU staff, including nurses and PCTs from all five PACU areas.
- The purpose of the PACU Marathon is to review required competencies and skill sets.
- There had never been a PCT-specific station at the PACU Marathon.

## PURPOSE

- To develop and implement a PACU Marathon station that would include PCT-specific topics.
- Essential education relevant to all units, but tailored for the PACU’s various patient population, would be included.

## INTERVENTION

- Working with the PACU Educator and lead PCT, a Jeopardy-style game was developed.
- The game included four categories:
  - **Name This:**
    - Each participant would have to name what an item was and what it is used for.
  - **Do This:**
    - Each participant would need to demonstrate a task.
  - **Answer This:**
    - Each participant would need to answer a question.
  - **Find This:**
    - Each participant would need to state the location of certain items on their own specific PACU.
- Utilizing ASPAN resources and hospital policy, questions were made for each category.
- Some questions had several parts which required the PCTs to expand their thinking.

## IMPLEMENTATION



QR code: Question OUTLINE FOR PCT ZOMBIE MARATHON



Photo of PACU Marathon Board

## EVALUATION & OUTCOMES

- Participants completed an evaluation form during and after the PACU Marathon
- On the post-Marathon evaluation form, PCTs stated:
  - They enjoyed the added gamification and personalized station made for them.
  - They enjoyed the one-on-one education and felt comfortable asking questions
  - They felt it was in-depth and provided opportunity for them to learn in a positive environment.
- One PCT stated, “ This station was really good and helpful.”

## IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

- Positive feedback during and after the 2024 PACU Marathon, indicated that annual education marathon should continue to include skills that PCTs need to know.
- A Jeopardy-style game was effective.

## NEXT STEPS

- After this educational offering, it was decided that education for PCTs should be included regularly.
- The 2025 PACU Marathon will incorporate another PCT-centered station.
- Along with the plan to have a PCT-specific station at the 2025 PACU marathon, other gamification activities have been discussed.
- One item includes a memory game, linking items with their description or function, primarily focusing on supplies and medical equipment.

## REFERENCES

- American Society of Anesthesiologists (2019). “Standards for Postanesthesia Care.” [www.asahq.org/standards-and-guidelines/standards-for-postanesthesia-care](http://www.asahq.org/standards-and-guidelines/standards-for-postanesthesia-care).
- American Society of Perianesthesia (2021). Perianesthesia Nursing Core Curriculum.

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