

No Nurse Left Behind: Boosting Ultrasound Guided IV Placement Competency with Timely, Accountable Training

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Abstract Background Information: Difficult intravenous (IV) access is a challenge that can lead to delays in care and increased patient discomfort. To address this issue, an ultrasound-guided IV access training program was developed within the emergency department and subsequently expanded to include med/surg, ICU, and pre-op/PACU departments. The program incorporated a structured approach, including didactic instruction, hands-on simulation, and a series of ultrasound-guided IV insertions—requiring participants to complete 10 proctored and 20 independent successful placements. Notably, the program lacked a defined timeline for completion. Despite initial engagement, only 20% of nurses who completed the didactic and simulation components progressed to successfully meet all clinical placement requirements.

Objectives of Project: To increase the completion rate of ultrasound-guided IV placement training from 20% to 60% by implementing structured guidelines, clearly defined timeline requirements, and accountability measures to support successful program completion.

Process of Implementation: A meeting was held with departmental leadership and education to review the current state of ultrasound guided IV training completion. A proposal was introduced to develop training expectations by implementing clear departmental guidelines. The newly established guidelines included the following timeline requirements:

- Completion of 10 successful proctored ultrasound guided IV insertions within 2 weeks of initial training
- Completion of 20 successful independent IV insertions within 45 days of initial training

Education formally announced the updated training requirements, and leadership met individually with nurses who had not yet completed their training to reinforce expectations and outline the new timelines. To support successful completion, refresher sessions were provided, and perianesthesia nurses were paired with IV team nurses for additional hands-on training opportunities.

Statement of Successful Practice: Following the implementation of timeline requirements and accountability measures, the completion rate of ultrasound-guided IV access training significantly improved—from 20% to 80%—demonstrating the effectiveness of structured expectations in supporting clinical skill development.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: The successful implementation of an ultrasound guided IV access training program enhances

perianesthesia nursing practice by improving patient satisfaction, reducing delays associated with difficult IV access, and minimizing late operating room starts. Empowering nurses with advanced vascular access skills supports more efficient, patient-centered care and contributes to improved perioperative workflow and outcomes.