

## **Wings of Knowledge. Taking PACU Education on the Fly**

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**Abstract Background Information:** In the fast-paced perianesthesia environment, time constraints and competing priorities often limit nurses' access to traditional classroom-based education. To address this challenge, the Education on the Fly initiative was developed—an innovative microlearning model that delivers 30-minute bedside teaching sessions during clinical shifts. The concept of “microlearning” — delivering small, focused bursts of education within the workflow — has been recognized as an effective strategy to overcome these barriers (De Gagne et al., 2021).

**Objectives of Project:** To increase staff engagement in continuing professional development by integrating flexible education that aligns with ASPAN Standards and departmental quality and safety goals. To integrate evidence-based updates into daily workflow through focused microlearning sessions that translate current guidelines and quality improvement priorities directly into practice and to establish a sustainable, scalable education model that aligns with ASPAN Standards and supports a culture of continuous learning, safety, and professional excellence.

**Process of Implementation:** Staff learning needs were assessed through a learning needs assessments to identify common knowledge gaps. Short, topic-focused education sessions were offered directly on the unit. Each “on the fly” session lasted approximately 30 minutes, combining brief didactic discussion, case-based learning, and reflective dialogue. Sessions were offered spontaneously (“on the fly”). CEs were awarded through approved provider status.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** The Education on the Fly initiative successfully demonstrated that meaningful continuing education can be delivered directly at the bedside without disrupting patient care. By integrating short, focused learning sessions into the workflow, nurses gained convenient access to evidence-based content while maintaining clinical responsibilities.

Attendance logs and post-session surveys were used to evaluate participation, satisfaction, and perceived impact on clinical practice. Nurses reported improved confidence in topics and postoperative monitoring.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** The Education on the Fly initiative demonstrates that innovative, flexible educational strategies can transform how professional development is delivered within the perianesthesia environment. This approach advances perianesthesia nursing by: Bridging the gap between education and practice, ensuring that learning is directly applied to patient care scenarios in real time. Enhancing clinical competence and confidence, fostering a culture of lifelong learning and professional accountability, supporting workforce flexibility and engagement, particularly for nurses balancing workload demands with ongoing educational requirements.