

## **Enhancing Health & Well-being in Children and Adolescents: A Multidisciplinary Approach in the Akron Children's Hospital Perioperative Surgical Home**

Team Leader: Tara L. Wright MSN RN CPN  
Akron Children's Hospital, Akron, OH

**Abstract Background Information:** Children and adolescents increasingly face complex health challenges, including chronic conditions, mental health concerns, and socioeconomic barriers. Akron Children's Hospital recognized an opportunity to address these issues by expanding its Perioperative Surgical Home (PSH) to incorporate evidence-based, holistic care strategies that promote long-term well-being.

### **Objectives of Project:**

- Improve physical, emotional, and social health outcomes for children and adolescents
- Promote equitable access to healthcare services across all demographics
- Empower perianesthesia nurses to be advocates for holistic child health

**Process of Implementation:** A multidisciplinary team of nurses, advanced practice providers (APPs), physicians, social workers, and child life specialists coordinated the integration of well-child check appointments within the PSH. Nurse- and APP-led education emphasized the importance of preventive care, nutrition, mental health screening, and family engagement. This approach strengthened continuity of care and improved access, particularly for children at higher risk of fragmented or delayed services.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** The initiative led to increased completion of well-child checks, earlier recognition of behavioral and social health needs, and improved family satisfaction. Nurses reported greater confidence in advocacy for holistic health, while collaboration across disciplines reduced duplication of services and enhanced the patient and family experience.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** This model illustrates how perianesthesia nurses can extend their influence beyond the surgical episode to improve population health and equity. By embedding preventive and family-centered care within the PSH, nurses support the Quintuple Aim, improving outcomes, enhancing experience, reducing costs, promoting caregiver well-being, and advancing health equity, while shaping the future scope of perianesthesia nursing practice.