

When Blood Takes a Detour: Understanding Vascular Disease

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Abstract Background Information: East Hospital continues to grow in service lines and help ensure our community has the same resources as other areas of Columbus. Although this service line was at our hospital many years ago, there were changes of care and new staff members who needed more information to help care for these patients. Staff were not comfortable caring for these types of patients and needed help and support from the physicians and leadership of the department

Objectives of Project: To learn more about these types of patients and collaborate with providers to ensure the best care for our vascular surgical patients.

Process of Implementation: Staff nurses and the nurse educator met with our new vascular surgeon to learn more about the procedures he would be completing and understanding what roles they played in the preoperative and post operative care. Knowing these patients would be a high risk for bleed, the staff wanted to understand the different closure devices and what the evidence was in terms of care guidelines for these patients. Articles were reviewed as well as ASPAN standards to help identify potential care guidelines for the departments. The staff members actually came from two different hospital units to collaborate and ensure they could provide standardized care. Education about the different closure devices was also provided to the staff.

Statement of Successful Practice: Staff have been receptive and willing to learn new information on how to provide the best care for these patients. Staff have successfully completed the NIH Stroke Scale certification and have been able to identify potential strokes in the PACU to escalate care needs.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Care in our areas are somewhat standardized between the units, so if staff are floating between areas, they are able to provide the same personalized and excellent care to vascular patients undergoing angiograms in our departments. The staff understand the importance of collaboration for these patients as well as any other future service lines that might be brought to our small community hospital.