

One Size Doesn't Fit All: Multimodal Education for Malignant Hyperthermia in Perianesthesia

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Abstract Background Information: Malignant Hyperthermia (MH) is a rare but life-threatening emergency that can occur in perianesthesia environments such as the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) and procedural sedation areas. These high-acuity settings demand rapid, coordinated responses, yet staff confidence and readiness to manage MH events varied widely, especially among nurses with limited exposure to such scenarios.

Objectives of Project: To enhance clinical preparedness and staff confidence in MH response by implementing a multimodal education strategy tailored to diverse learning styles and experience levels.

Process of Implementation: A multimodal education plan was developed, including high fidelity simulation, in-situ simulation within the Perianesthesia space, a tabletop drill, electronic medical record scavenger hunt and microlearning hands-on practice sessions. The curriculum was aligned with ASPAN standards and included equipment, medication and realistic scenarios.

Statement of Successful Practice: Post-intervention data showed a marked increase in staff confidence. Staff reported feeling more empowered and prepared to respond to MH events. The use of varied modalities ensured engagement for all staff regardless of available time, experience levels and learning preferences.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: This initiative illustrates how customized, multimodal education strengthens clinical preparedness and boosts staff confidence in managing high-risk situations. It highlights the value of meeting learners at their individual starting points and integrating education seamlessly into their daily workflows.