

Advancing Pediatric Perioperative Care: A Journal Club Exploration in the PACU

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Abstract Background Information: A unit-based journal club empowers perianesthesia staff to collectively engage in critical reviews of research literature to bridge the gap between evidence and practice. Notable barriers for implementation at our organization included time constraints and limited understanding of the process (PICO creation, article search/selection, critical appraisal, and synthesis). One standard in our professional advancement program is evidence-based practice, achieved by facilitating &/or attending staff-led journal clubs.

Objectives of Project: Improve knowledge and confidence in research retrieval, synthesis, and application of evidence-based practices in clinical settings by providing structure, resources, and support to perianesthesia bedside nursing staff.

Process of Implementation: Create and provide a structured template, detailed timeline of achievable tasks (with accompanying resources), and leader support to the staff facilitator in two-week intervals, one month ahead of the scheduled journal club. Provide attendees with articles, appraisal tools, and facilitator/ leader support two weeks prior to the journal club. Project leaders facilitated the initial journal club meeting to give a modeled example for the process, facilitation expectations, promote discussion, and provide practice application strategies.

Statement of Successful Practice: Since implementing a unit-based journal club, we have successfully hosted eight sessions covering a variety of evidence-based practice topics. These sessions have fostered knowledge sharing, empowered perianesthesia staff to share experiences, and strengthened collaboration across teams, with participation from clinicians in other units and roles. As a result, we have been able to implement new practices aimed at improving patient care and have inspired team members to actively engage in a unit quality improvement project. To date, 20 staff members have professionally advanced by using the staff-lead journal club as a validation item for the evidence-based standard.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Supporting a nurse-led journal club fosters the integration of evidence-based practice into daily care and encourages regular discussion on how current practices align with the latest literature. Topics such as managing pre-procedural anxiety, post-operative pain management, and family-centered care are often explored, all of which have a direct impact on the quality of care provided to patients. Additionally, a journal club promotes staff engagement, strengthens interdisciplinary collaboration, and offers valuable opportunities for professional growth and development.