

Ready, Set, Sedate: Nurses Leading Residents Toward Successful Orientation

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Abstract Background Information: As anesthesia residents enter the clinical environment, a clear understanding of perioperative workflows and interprofessional communication is essential for safe and efficient patient care. Recognizing gaps in early clinical readiness and interdisciplinary collaboration, a nurse-guided orientation session was developed to support the transition of new anesthesia residents into the perioperative setting.

Objectives of Project: The primary objectives of the project were to: (1) introduce residents to the functional layout and clinical flow of key perianesthesia areas; (2) clarify the role of nursing staff in each phase of perioperative care; (3) strengthen interprofessional communication through standardized handoff training; and (4) enhance residents' confidence and competence obtaining intravenous (IV) access.

Process of Implementation: The implementation consisted of a structured, three-hour orientation session led by experienced perianesthesia nurses. The session included guided walkthroughs and discussions throughout all areas of care. Each segment emphasized patient flow, documentation standards, safety protocols, and the critical contributions of nursing staff. Residents also participated in a focused communication training session centered on standardized handoff tools to support continuity of care. The orientation concluded with a hands-on IV skills lab, allowing residents to practice vein selection, catheter insertion, and troubleshooting under direct nursing supervision.

Statement of Successful Practice: The nurse-guided orientation session successfully enhanced anesthesia residents' readiness for clinical practice by providing a structured, interactive introduction to perioperative workflows and interprofessional collaboration. Resident feedback highlighted increased confidence in navigating clinical spaces and performing hand-offs, improved understanding of nursing roles, and greater comfort in performing IV access. This practice demonstrated the value of nurse-led education in promoting resident integration, fostering teamwork, and ultimately supporting safer patient care in the perioperative environment.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: This initiative underscores the critical role of perianesthesia nurses as educators and facilitators in the orientation of anesthesia residents, expanding nursing influence beyond traditional clinical care to include interdisciplinary training and mentorship. By leading structured orientation and skills development, nurses contribute to building a culture of safety and collaborative practice in perioperative settings. Integrating nurse-led orientation programs nationally could standardize resident preparation, improve team dynamics, and enhance patient outcomes. This approach advocates for continued investment in nursing-led educational interventions to advance perianesthesia nursing practice and interdisciplinary collaboration.