

Pause with Purpose: Enhancing Safety with Regional Nerve Block Time Outs

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Abstract Background Information: The proposal focuses on improving patient safety in perianesthesia by implementing a structured time-out protocol before regional nerve blocks. This initiative aims to prevent wrong-site procedures, enhance communication among the care team, and ensure accurate patient and procedure verification. Given that wrong-site nerve blocks occur significantly more often than wrong-site surgeries, this protocol is essential for fostering a culture of safety and accountability. The session aims to equip nurses with the knowledge to apply these practices in their facilities, ultimately leading to improved safety metrics and patient outcomes in regional anesthesia.

Objectives of Project: The objectives of the project aim to implement a standardized Regional Nerve Block Time Out protocol to enhance communication and verification processes among healthcare team members, thereby reducing the incidence of wrong-site procedures. Additionally, the initiative seeks to educate nursing staff on applying these practices effectively, measure compliance and safety improvements, and promote a culture of accountability across healthcare facilities.

Process of Implementation: Initially, a comprehensive assessment of current practices revealed significant variability in adherence to time-out procedures. To address this, a structured checklist was developed, and multidisciplinary training sessions were conducted to educate all team members on the importance of the time-out process. Following the training, compliance rates increased, demonstrating the effectiveness of targeted efforts. Continuous monitoring through compliance audits and feedback loops was established to sustain improvements and reinforce a culture of safety, communication, and accountability within the team.

Statement of Successful Practice: This initiative has significantly reduced wrong-site nerve blocks and fostered a culture of teamwork and accountability. Continuous monitoring through audits has ensured sustained adherence, reinforcing the importance of thorough verification of patient identity, procedure, and site. Overall, this practice exemplifies our commitment to patient-centered care and patient safety.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: This initiative promotes teamwork and accountability, encouraging nurses to engage in effective communication with anesthesiologists and other team members. As nurses gain proficiency in these safety protocols, they contribute to the establishment of consistent practices across healthcare facilities, leading to better patient outcomes and increased staff confidence. Continuous education and compliance monitoring empower nurses to advocate for best practices, driving quality improvement initiatives and reinforcing the commitment to patient-centered care in anesthesia.