

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

Nancy Payne, BSN, RN, CAPA & Kelsey McMullen, BSN, RN-BC
Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester, NY

Background

- Senior anesthesia residents identified a need for structured IV training
- Nursing staff observed uncertainty among new anesthesia residents regarding standard procedures and expectations in perianesthesia areas

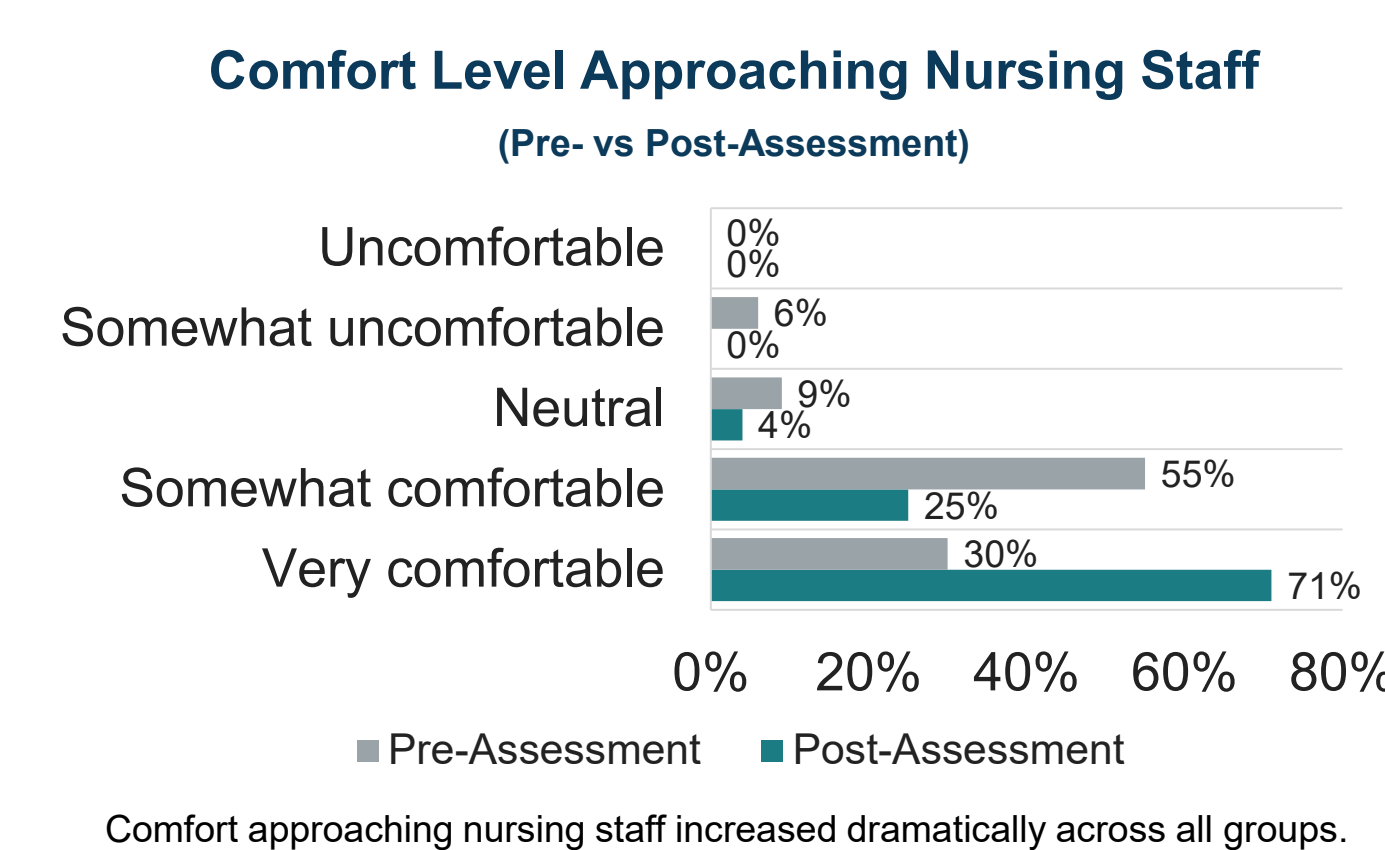
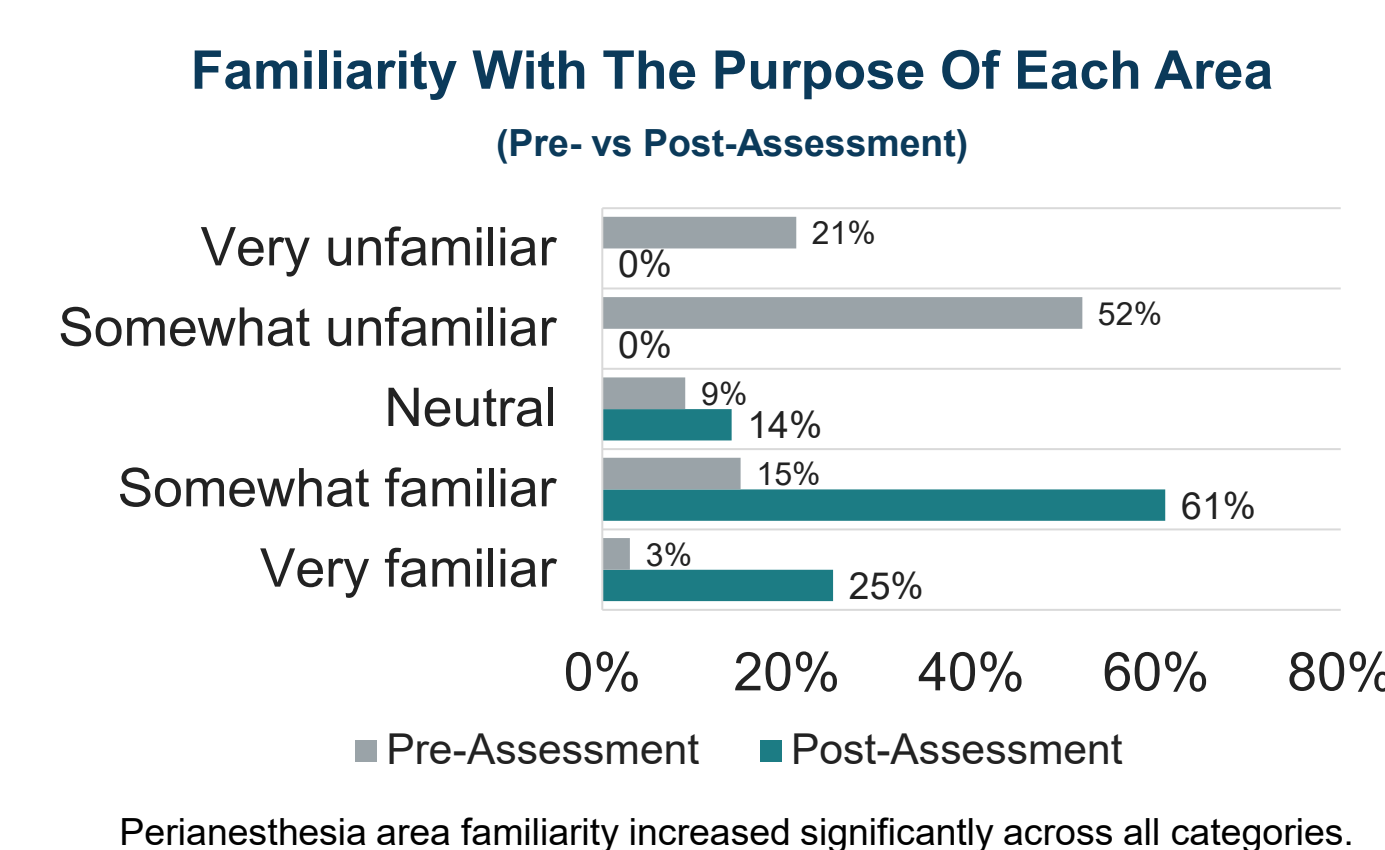
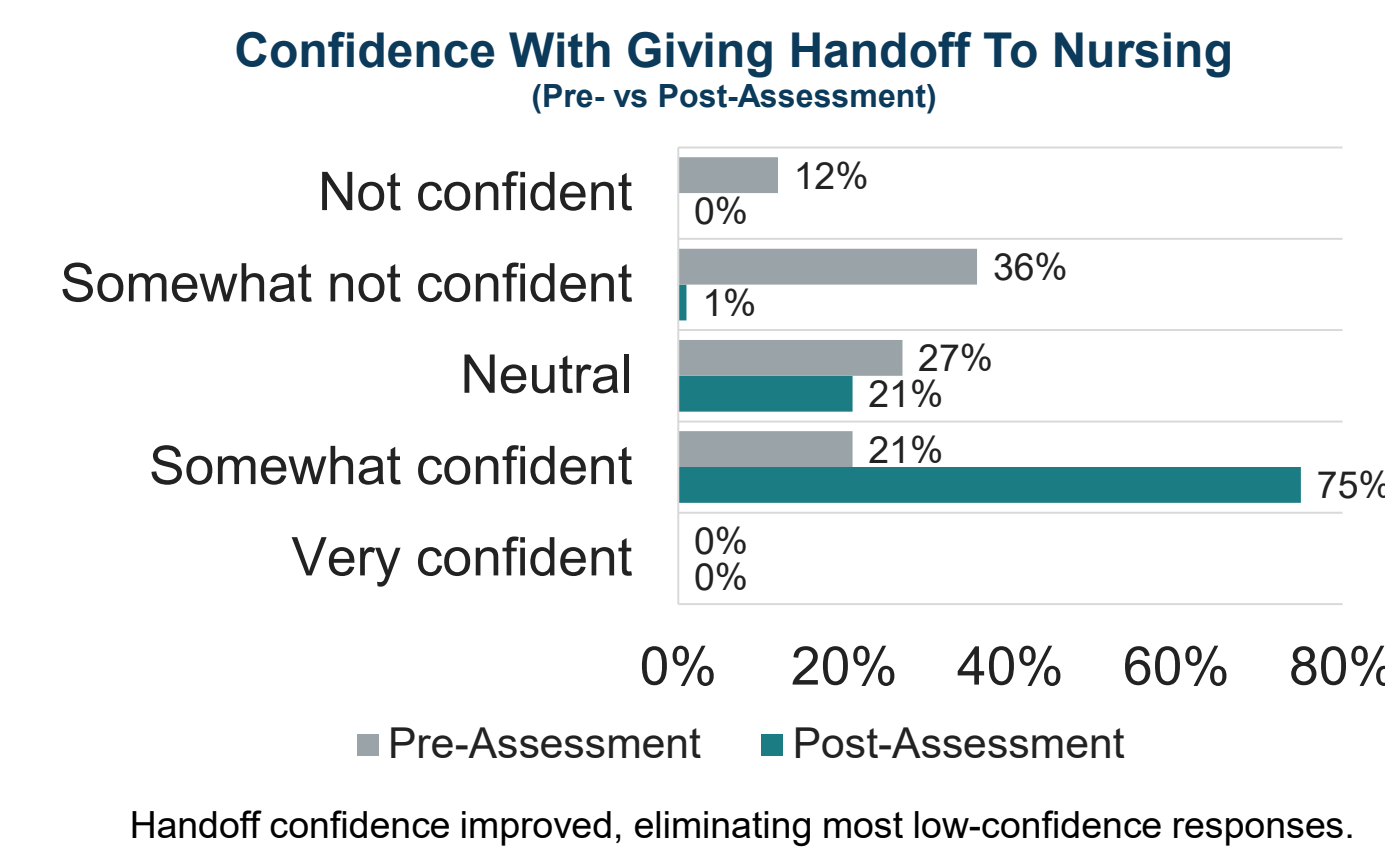
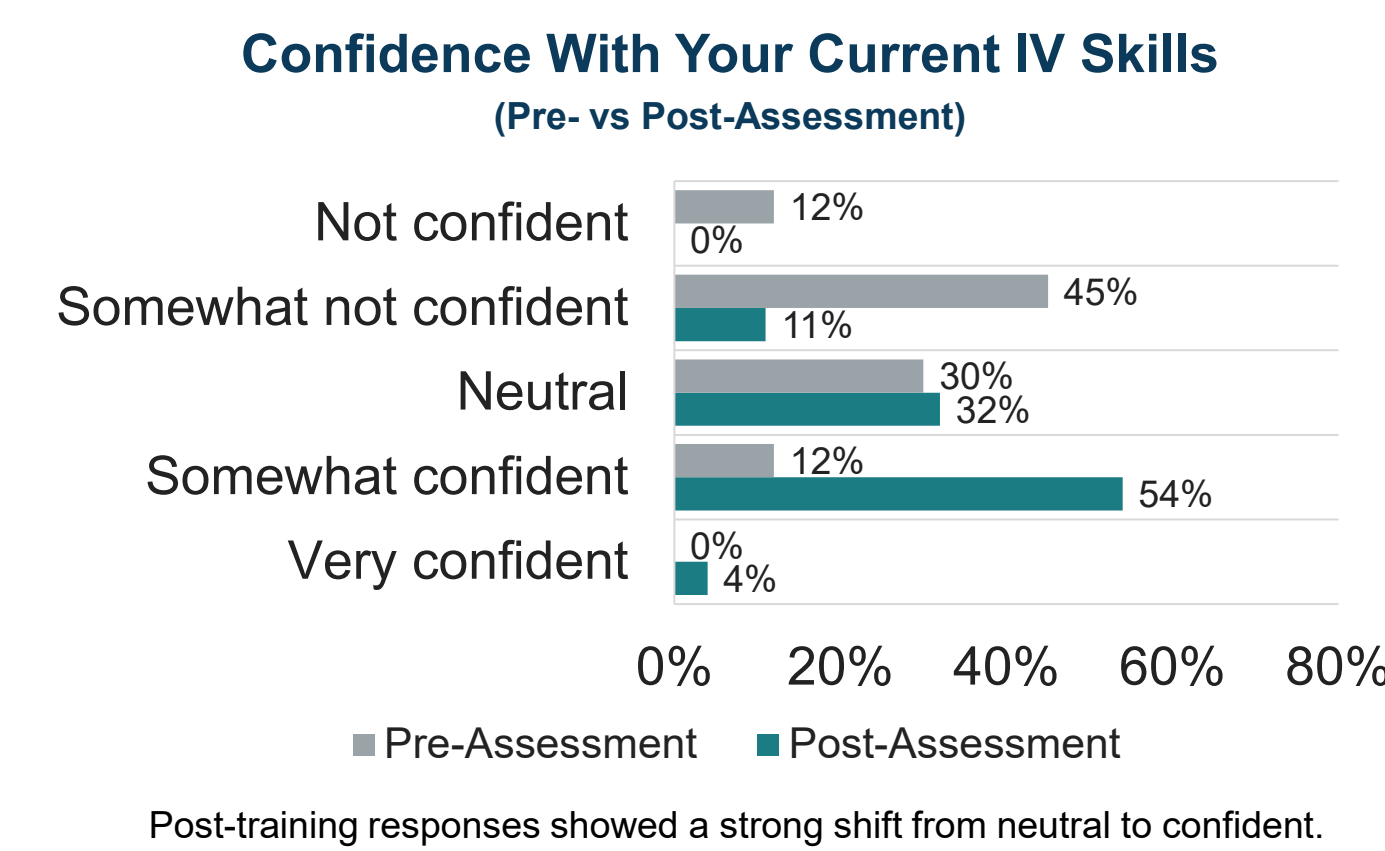
Project Objectives

1. Improve resident familiarity with the physical layout and operational workflows of key perianesthesia units
2. Clarify nursing roles and responsibilities across each phase of perioperative care
3. Strengthen interprofessional communication through standardized handoff training
4. Enhance residents' confidence and competence in obtaining intravenous (IV) access

Implementation

- Three-hour nurse-led orientation on patient flow, documentation, safety protocols, and nursing roles
- Guided walkthroughs of all perianesthesia areas
- Standardized handoff communication training
- Supervised IV skills lab (vein selection, catheter insertion, troubleshooting)
- Pre- and post-orientation Likert surveys assessing IV confidence, handoff confidence, area familiarity, and comfort approaching nursing staff

Results



What was most useful?

- Getting the tips from a nursing perspective on ways that we can be helpful to them and make things flow more smoothly
- Practice under low stress with a guide
- Proper tourniquet technique
- What each preop/postop location is for
- Best presentation!! So friendly, approachable, and great at teaching.
- How to place an IV. You guys were great, thank you!

What can we improve/other topics of interest?

- Reviewing PACU monitors/lines
- Handouts
- Have a little checklist of how to complete a signout to PACU
- One or two slides for an overview of A-line
- Inclusion of things that commonly get left out of handoffs in the PACU
- More IV time

Key Findings

- Nurse-led orientation improved IV skills, handoff, communication, and familiarity with perianesthesia areas
- Increased confidence navigating clinical spaces and performing handoffs
- Residents had a better understanding of nursing roles and greater confidence with IV access
- 100% of residents reported the presentation was helpful



Conclusions

- Nurse-led orientation improved anesthesia residents' readiness for clinical practice
- Increased comfort interacting with nursing staff
- Structured, hands-on training reduced low-confidence and low-familiarity responses
- Reinforced the value of interdisciplinary, nurse-led education for resident competence and collaborative perioperative practice