

## **Evidence Based Practice Education Initiative**

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**Background Information:** Nurses commonly identify the need to improve clinical practices and rely on their own clinical expertise and experience to provide evidence to support change. There is a knowledge deficit related to the process by which existing clinical research is incorporated and utilized to promote and support practice improvements. Nurses are increasingly called upon to develop process improvements using evidence based practice (EBP) principles yet do not have the skills to initiate projects.

**Objectives of Project:** The goal of the project was to enhance the knowledge of perioperative/ perianesthesia bedside nurses about the EBP process.

**Process of Implementation:** A team was developed to devise an EBP education program for nurses in perianesthesia care units (PACUs) and operating rooms (ORs) across the health system. Before the initial session, a survey was sent to attendees to obtain information regarding current levels of knowledge regarding EBP. Nurses from PACU and OR with varying levels of education and three or greater years in their current job roles communicated definitions of what EBP means to them. Ongoing monthly presentations were then offered to staff to provide an overview of the EBP process. Successive sessions allow nurses to discover the many facets of EBP.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** The pre-project survey revealed knowledge deficits related to what the EBP process includes. The same nurses surveyed after the initial presentation indicated an increased general level of understanding of EBP based on an initial informal post-presentation survey. Staff revealed a new level of enthusiasm for initiating EBP projects and a strong desire to contribute to unit process improvements utilizing the process. The initial survey will be repeated at the completion of the project and results will be available for this presentation.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** Bedside perioperative and perianesthesia nurses will have an improved understanding of the EBP process, initiate projects, and implement changes more readily by utilizing this process. Perianesthesia and perioperative nurses will communicate findings through presentation and publication allowing other nurses to benefit from their efforts.