

Leadership of Perioperative Quality Improvement Council

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Background Information: Our Perioperative Senior Director and Perianesthesia Nursing Director developed a Quality Council (QC). The QC consists of the Senior Director for Perioperative Services, Perianesthesia Nursing Director, 2 Clinical Educators from Operating Room (OR) and 2 Clinical Educators from Perianesthesia (PA).

Objectives of Project: The QC's mission is to lead quality improvement initiatives within perioperative services, provide mentoring for clinical nurse promotion on the career ladder, and support research and publications in peer reviewed journals by team members within the perioperative service.

Process of Implementation: The QC was formed in 2016. The group charter was written by 3 members of the committee and voted on by the group. The Senior Director and Director of Perianesthesia Nursing lead the monthly meetings. The group discusses initiatives around the core mission and shares best practices to promote the continuum of care across perioperative services.

Statement of Successful Practice: This meeting has been a perfect vehicle to promote communication and patient flow between preoperative holding unit (PH), operating rooms (OR), and post anesthesia care unit (PACU). For example, the development of PH to OR handoff improvements was facilitated by this council. To date, in addition to educational role, the members of the team have published 9 articles, presented over 15 posters in national and international conferences, facilitated the promotion of 4 clinical nurses to the next level of the clinical ladder, developed unit guidelines for new procedures and updates existing guidelines.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Perioperative Divisions should consider implementation of a QC for directors and educators to communicate directly about the educator's role in quality improvement, evidenced based practice projects, research studies and professional development of staff.