Preoperative nurses cross-trained to the Post Anesthesia Care Unit were competent in the care of the post-operative patient after a ten hour Critical Care Crash Course and an on-unit orientation with a preceptor.

**PURPOSE**

Cross-train preoperative nurses to competently care for all patient populations in the PACU.

**BACKGROUND**

Perioperative patient throughput has been affected by:

- Infrastructure change
- Increased surgical volume
- New patient populations

Perioperative nurses have historically been trained to their home unit:

- Preoperative Area
- Postoperative Area

**IMPLEMENTATION**

- PACU Crash Course: 2 days; 20 hours
- Pre-course and post-course assessment of knowledge
- Participant evaluation of course
- Eight week orientation to the PACU
- One year follow up survey of participants

**EVALUATION**

- Course Evaluation collected at end of Day 2
- Rated: “Overall Course”, “Relevance of Content” and “Ability to Meet Objectives”
- 1-5 Likert scale (5-Excellent)

**RESULTS**

The lectures and hands on training during the didactic portion of my orientation were all pertinent to my role as a PACU nurse.

**Question 1**

- 80% strongly agree
- 20% agree

The critical care crash course and my 8 week orientation to the PACU adequately prepared me to competently care for a PACU patient.

**Question 2**

- 60% somewhat agree
- 20% agree
- 20% strongly agree