



**Nicklaus
Children's
Hospital**



Coaching to Knock Our CPAN/CAPA Certification Rates Out of the Park

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Background

- Subspecialty certification is proven to increase the quality of care delivery, improve patient safety and outcomes, validate professional experience, and strengthen credibility.
- At Nicklaus Children's Hospital, a freestanding pediatric Magnet hospital, the combined rate of Certified Post Anesthesia (CPAN) and/or Certified Ambulatory Perianesthesia Nurse (CAPA) certified nurses was 7% in 2020.
- Although resources and incentives were in place for other certifications such as Certified Perioperative Nurse (CNOR), limited awareness of CPAN/CAPA certification was identified as a barrier for perianesthesia nurses to pursue certification.
- Perianesthesia nurses provided feedback on the lack of certification review courses and financial incentives as the top barriers to becoming certified in their specialty.

Project Aim

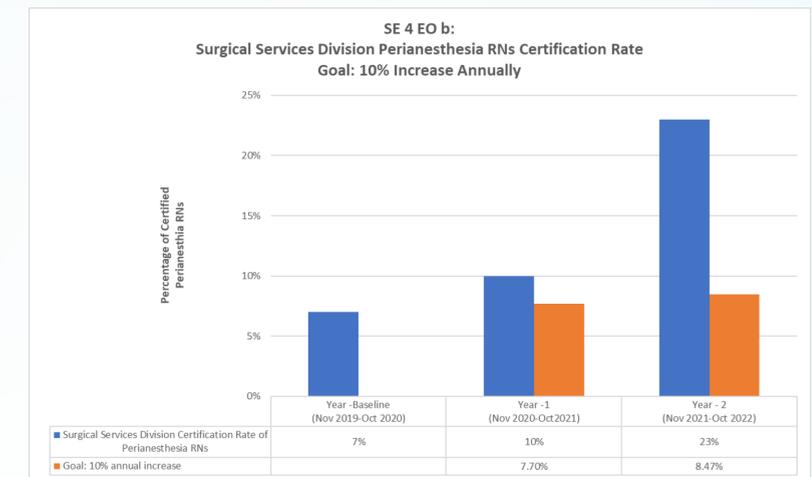
Promote awareness of perianesthesia nursing subspecialty certification and provide access to CPAN/CAPA certification resources to increase the rate of CPAN/CAPA certified nurses by 10% annually.

Methods

- Perianesthesia Clinical Specialist collaborated with unit and nursing leadership and advocated for resources and support for nurses seeking CPAN/CAPA certification.
- The Surgical Services Shared Leadership Council identified certification rates as a departmental goal in 2021, with interventions implemented over the span of a year.
- System-level recognitions, such as Perianesthesia Nurse Awareness Week and Certified Nurses Day were celebrated to highlight the subspecialty.
- Professional development for perianesthesia clinical leads was prioritized, including support to attend the ASPAN 2021 conference.
- The American Board of Perianesthesia Nursing Certification (ABPANC) Coach role and voucher program was implemented, and the Clinical Specialist became an ABPANC Coach. Through this program and role, nurses were educated and recruited for the CPAN/CAPA exams.
- ABPANC recommended textbooks were added to the hospital medical library to provide nurses access to study materials.
- With executive leadership support, the purchase of "Mosby's Orientation to Perianesthesia Nursing by ASPAN" e-Learning course through Elsevier was obtained to help nurses prepare for examination.

Outcomes

By the end of 2021, CPAN/CAPA certification rate increased from a baseline of 7% to 10%, representing an increase of 42.86%. With continued access to an ABPANC coach and organizational resources, 2022 certification rates reached 23%, an overall increase of 130% from 2020. These improvements far exceeded the goal of a 10% annual increase.



Implications for Nursing Practice

Leveraging internal clinical nursing experts as ABPANC coaches may be a successful strategy to increase CPAN/CAPA certification for perianesthesia nurses. As certification is correlated with positive patient and nurse outcomes, increasing rates may lead to improvements in care.

