

## **Standardized Care and Management for Pregnancy with Cancer in a Perioperative Setting**

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**Background Information:** The rising occurrence of complex surgeries in pregnant patients with cancer has raised numerous concerns regarding insufficient knowledge and information concerning care coordination, protocols, and available resources. These concerns have been contributing to delays in the operating room. Operating room delays have adverse effects on patient safety, patient satisfaction scores, and the financial performance of the hospital.

**Objectives of Project:** Create standardized protocols for pregnant cancer patients in the perioperative setting. This involved developing a Pregnant Patient Care Algorithm, a Perioperative Workflow, and implementing Maternal-Fetal Medicine (MFM) Consults before surgery. The aim was to enhance care quality, safety, and nurse confidence in managing this patient population.

**Process of Implementation:** An online survey was designed and conducted among perioperative nursing staff, revealing a significant knowledge gap, lacking workflow and guideline regarding this patient population. To address this, a collaborative meeting with a GYN surgeon led to the creation of an algorithm, workflow, and Maternal-Fetal Medicine (MFM) consultation process. An educational PowerPoint presentation (PPT) was developed, followed by comprehensive training sessions for staff, ensuring the dissemination of essential information.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** Following the algorithm's implementation and educational initiatives, an online survey was conducted. The results showed a significant improvement:

- Staff awareness of guidelines and resources increased from 70% to 97%.
- 88% of staff found the Perioperative pregnancy patient workflow beneficial for understanding proper care processes.
- Staff awareness of the need for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (MFM) and Ultrasound guidelines increased by 30%.
- Those who felt confident in caring for this patient group increased from 16% to 56%.
- Overall knowledge and confidence improved from 2.3 to 3.6 out of 5.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** The initiative empowered nurses to identify essential resources and knowledge for pregnant cancer patients undergoing surgery, boosting their confidence in care coordination. As a result, it supports the PACU team in providing safe and efficient care for pregnant patients with cancer diagnosis in a perioperative setting.