

Gap Knowledge Education in the PACU: An Interactive Seek and Find

Team Leader: Ashley Garcia MSN RN

University of Maryland Medical Center Baltimore, Maryland

Background Information: The University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland nears its annual Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) educational marathon. The staff had poor ratings on in house tracers and audits which covered topics such as how to identify MD credentialing and patient belongings documentation. In an effort to increase staff knowledge on navigating the electronic charting system to improve audit scores it was decided to add an additional station at the educational marathon focusing on this topic. Previous educational attempts on this topic were not well received by staff and did not increase knowledge base, often seen as dry and boring. Staff knowledge on these topics prove to provide safe patient handling while in the Perioperative Services area.

Objectives of Project: The goal of this project was to develop and implement an educational opportunity for nursing staff to participate in which will lead to an increase in knowledge that was found to be deficient on the unit and lead to knowledge retention. It would also be an added benefit if the staff were to enjoy this method of education.

Process of Implementation: Perioperative leadership consisting of PACU managers and educators reviewed areas which staff were deficient as evidenced by audits and tracers that were completed on the unit biweekly. The Clinical Education Coordinator (CEC) created an educational style which combined active learning with hands on learning in the form of a seek and find. This seek and find station was added to the annual PACU education marathon of which all PACU staff participated in.

Statement of Successful Practice: The post survey given to staff indicated that there was a 100% satisfaction rating by the staff nurses appreciating this form of educational model. The staff also were able to address gap knowledge issues and actively demonstrate that they now have competency on these topics. Thus, indicating that there was a positive impact with the interactive educational model.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Utilizing various learning models for nurses and perioperative staff to utilize increases the likelihood that there is retention of knowledge and implementation towards practice, increasing the safety which care is practiced in the postoperative setting.