

Implementation of a Malignant Hyperthermia Training Plan Providing Education to Perianesthesia Staff Member on the Proper Management of a MH Crisis

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Background Information: Malignant Hyperthermia (MH) is a rare medical emergency that is triggered by general anesthesia and can escalate into a life threatening situation if left untreated. There is a need for nurses and technicians of Preoperative/Phase 2, Operating Room (OR), and Post Anesthesia Care Unit to be competent in recognizing and treating patients with MH. Collaboration with our unit educator and the OR educator was vital in the successful implementation of a training plan for all Perianesthesia staff members. Annual education sessions were incorporated in an annual Perianesthesia “Bootcamp” where learners were educated on the pathophysiology and treatment of MH.

Objectives of Project: Educating Perianesthesia staff members on the proper management of a Malignant Hyperthermia crisis.

Process of Implementation: Providing a wide range of learning didactics utilizing audio, visual, and hands on learning were essential in the successful implementation of educating Perianesthesia staff members. Power point, poster boards, small group discussions, music video, badge cards, posttest questions, and mock MH codes were implemented during an annual Perianesthesia Bootcamp education week. The MH cart was available for learners to familiarize themselves with the location of Dantrolene and other items in the cart. Learners were given the opportunity to mix expired bottles of Dantrolene in a small group session promoting collaborative learning and critical thinking.

Statement of Successful Practice: A Malignant Hyperthermia training plan promotes quality improvement and safe practice as time is crucial in the delivery of care during a MH crisis.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Perianesthesia members are key to the successful resuscitation of patients in a MH crisis. The implementation of an organized education training plan assists in the delivery of quality patient care promoting quality patient outcomes.