Building Bridges: Creating a Perianesthesia and Operating Room Committee
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Introduction
- Though Perianesthesia and the Operating Room (OR) work in concert, there can often be a perceived divide between the departments
- Following an increase in safety events in relation to surgical dressings, drains and catheters, a Perianesthesia/OR workgroup was formed
- The team determined that the increased line of communication could go beyond the original scope and purpose
- This shifted a short term workgroup into a long term interdepartmental committee
- Topics of discussion may rotate, however optimizing patient safety and outcomes is always the priority

Objectives
- Develop an interdepartmental committee between Perianesthesia and the OR
- Discover strategies to engage clinical nurses in decision making
- Foster a collaborative environment with clinical nursing staff and unit based leadership

Methods
- Recruited membership from both Perianesthesia and the Operating Room. From this membership, chairs and co-chairs were established
- Agenda items were solicited based on safety event reporting, clinical nurse input and leadership suggestions
- Meetings were established on a monthly basis, for one hour timeframes. A hybrid format enabled members to join from home
- Interprofessional collaboration is encouraged, and may include infection prevention, informatics and materials management

Results
- Successful trials have been performed for new technology, including vacuum assisted hair removal systems and straight catheters
- Documentation of surgical drains, dressings and catheters has improved overall
- Standardized processes have been established to notify support persons throughout the perioperative continuum
- Increased engagement and community outreach have stemmed from various clinical nurse run charitable events
- Results of this workgroup were highlighted as a Magnet® exemplar

Discussion
- Interdepartmental collaboration between Perianesthesia and the OR can increase communication and success of interventions
- This forum allows clinical staff nurses to constructively view problems and encompass different perspectives
- Engaging clinical nurses from Perianesthesia and the OR promotes departmental partnerships

References