

Promoting Perianesthesia Certification Through Virtual Study Groups



Team Leaders:

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Team Members:

Michael Braden, MSNed, RN, CPAN, CAPA⁴; Denise Oxford, BSN, RN, CPAN, CAPA¹; Patti Lyons, RN, CCRN, CPAN¹;
Linda Morales, BSN, RN, CCRN, CPAN, CAPA⁵; Imelissa Blancas, MSN, RN, CAPA, CPAN, CPN, NEA-BC⁶

Background Information

From Spring 2019 to Spring 2022, the pass rate for Certified Post Anesthesia Nurse (CPAN) exams dropped from 80% to 57%. During this same time frame, the Certified Ambulatory Perianesthesia Nurse (CAPA) pass rate decreased from 84% to 69%. Due to these downturns, a need to support perianesthesia nurses obtaining certification was identified.

Objectives

To obtain certification pass rates above the national average amongst study group participants for the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 testing sessions.



Study Group Coaches (L to R): Karen Woods, Imelissa Blancas, Patti Lyons, Ronda Dyer, Denise Oxford, Michelle Meadows, Michael Braden, Linda Morales

Process Implementation

In June of 2022, a group of certified perianesthesia nurses, including four direct care nurses and two perianesthesia nurse educators, created a study program to be offered virtually on the Zoom platform. Using the textbook *Drain's Perianesthesia Nursing A Critical Care Approach*, a 12-week study plan was developed with assigned topics for each week.

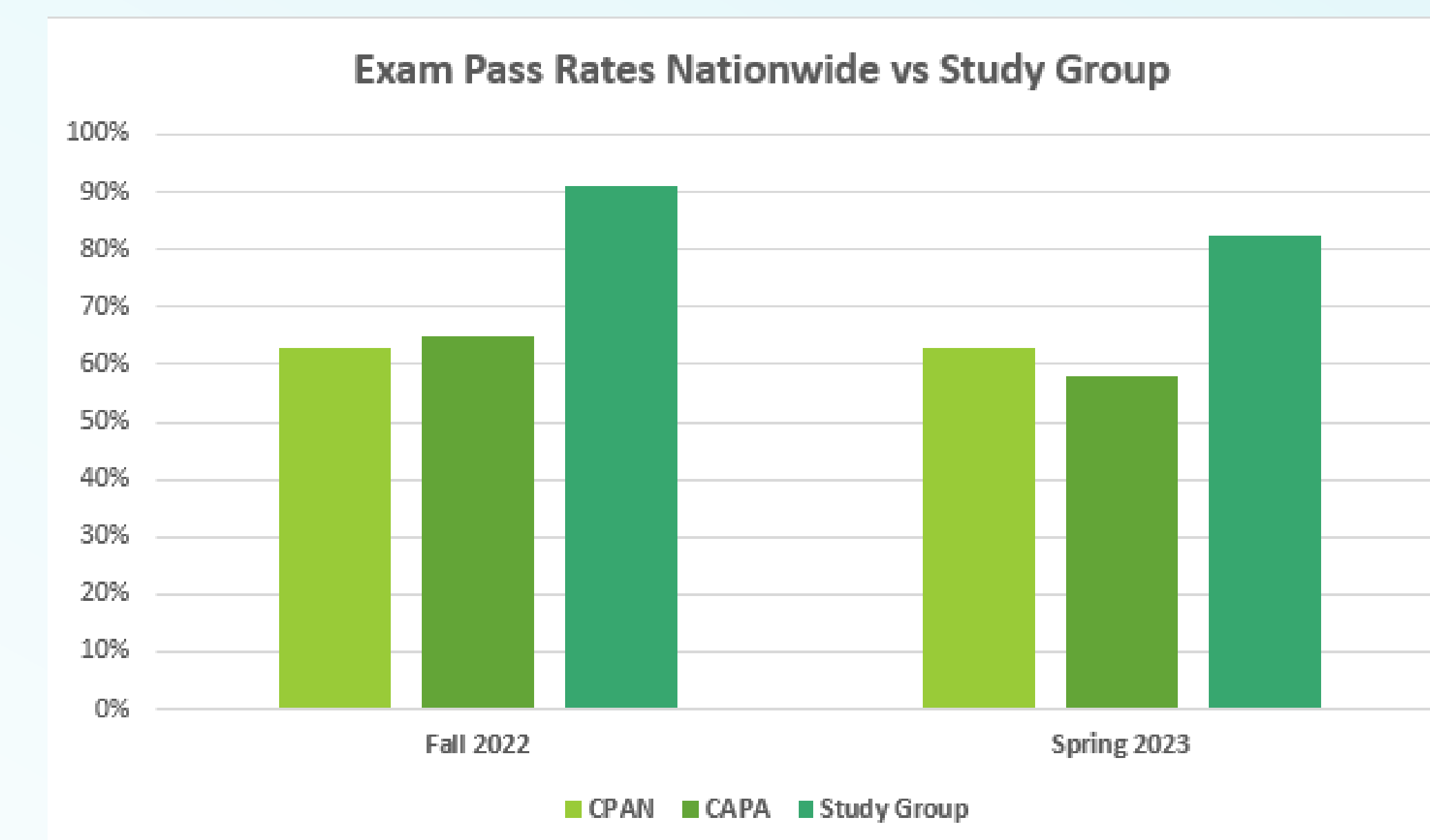
Perianesthesia Nurses Association of California (PANAC) members were emailed a study group announcement and an invitation to a virtual informational session. Attendees interested in joining the study group were asked to fulfill participation requirements, which included:

- Membership to the American Society of Perianesthesia Nurses (ASPAN) with the PANAC component,
- Registration for the CPAN and/or CAPA exam, and
- Access to a copy of the *Drain's* textbook.

For 12 weeks, participants met with study group coaches on Zoom to review perianesthesia topics as scheduled in the study plan. The same process was followed for the Spring 2023 study group.

Sample Study Plan

Wednesday	Drain's Perianesthesia Nursing Critical Care Approach 7 th Ed.	Perianesthesia Nursing Core Curriculum
Jan 4	Informational Session	
Jan 18	Chapters 1-9	Chapters 2-4
Jan 25	Chapters 10, 11	Chapters 19, 20
Feb 1	Chapters 12,13	Chapter 18
Feb 8	Chapters 14-18	Chapters 13, 21, 22
Feb 22	Chapters 19-20	Chapter 14
Mar 1	Chapters 21-25	
Mar 8	Chapters 26-29	Chapters 5, 6, 16, 36, 37, 38
Mar 15	Chapters 30-34	Chapters 17, 19, 27, 28, 30
Mar 22	Chapters 35-38	Chapters 29, 31
Mar 29	Chapters 39-44	Chapters 23, 25, 26, 32
Apr 12	Chapters 45-49, 51	Chapters 7-12, 24, 33, 35
Apr 19	Chapters 50, 52-55	Chapters 15, 34 appendix B



Statement of Successful Practice

The Fall 2022 study group participants sat for 11 exams and passed 10 (91% pass rate).

The Spring 2023 study group participants sat for 50 exams and passed 41 (82.5% pass rate).

Due to confidentiality protections, the breakdown between CPAN and CAPA exams taken was not obtained.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing

Specialty certification validates a nurse's knowledge and promotes quality outcome in patients. Virtual certification study groups led by certified nurses can promote professional development by increasing test-taker success rates and enable greater participation than in-person options. Continuation of the perianesthesia certification virtual study group will advance nursing practice and professional development, as well as improve perianesthesia patient outcomes.

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