Who’s Who in the PACU? Role Designation During Emergencies

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Background

- During PACU emergencies, our team identified:
  1. Unclear roles
  2. Knowledge gaps within roles
  3. Lack of confidence in emergency skills
- Synthesized findings show poor team dynamics and communication breakdown contribute to preventable errors
- Lack of role designation may lead to adverse patient outcomes during emergency events

PICO: Does role designation strategy impact PACU staff team dynamics during emergency situations?

Purpose

Implement and evaluate the effectiveness of a role designation strategy for PACU staff during emergency situations to improve staff confidence, staff knowledge, and team dynamics while maintaining positive outcomes.

Methods

Pre-Intervention Data

- Team Dynamics measured via Mayo High Performance Scale during unit emergencies or mock events
- Staff confidence and knowledge measured via survey sent to PACU staff pre and post implementation

Education:

- Information on Role Response Team and emergency skills/concepts provided prior to implementation

Post-Intervention Data

Skill Station Topics:

1. Airway Management
2. Medication Administration
3. Crash Cart Review
4. Compressions
5. Documentation
6. Role Designation Tool

PACU Staff Response Team

Medication Nurse (PACU Med RN):

Compressions (PACU AP):

PACU PCT:

- Bring crash cart to slot, obtain supplies, compression relief

PACU Staff leader:

- Crowd control, ensure all roles are filled, designate RN to document, support Provider who is leading

PACU Medical Receptionist:

- Notify manager, Pharmacy, Administrative Coordinator (AC)

PACU CRNA/Anesthesiologist:

PACU Co-Charge Nurse:

- Manage unit flow, fill in as Med RN

Bedside RN is responsible for:

- Initial airway then handover to PACU CRNA/MD
- Give report to Lead Provider/Response Team and remain available at bedside

Implementation of a role designation tool in the PACU provides PACU staff with a clear plan for emergencies.

This clear plan improves communication, team dynamics, and comfort among PACU staff during emergencies, positively impacting patient outcomes.