

# **Effectiveness of Pediatric Competency-based Orientation (PCBO) on Knowledge, Confidence, and Manifestation of Early Recognition of Nursing Expertise Among PACU Nurses**

Primary Investigators: Juanita Baroya MSN-PH RN CPAN, Sandra Ramos MSN RN CPAN  
Mercy Medical Center, Baltimore, Maryland

Co-Investigators: Kristine O'Neill MSN RN CPAN, Ryan MacDonald PhD,  
Dina Krenzischek PhD RN CPAN FASPAN FAAN

**Introduction:** At Mercy Medical Center (MMC) the pediatric patient population was primarily cared for in a smaller outpatient Preoperative/PACU within the hospital. Due to consolidation of operating rooms into the main tower, the pediatric patients were absorbed into the main Preop and PACU areas.

**Identification of the problem:** As a result of this consolidation, the experienced perianesthesia nurses' verbalized feelings of anxiety, lack of confidence, and uncertainty related to the pediatric patient population.

**Purpose:** The research intent was to evaluate the effectiveness of the American Society of Perianesthesia Nurses (ASPAN) Pediatric Competency-Based Orientation (PCBO) education program on knowledge, confidence, and early recognition of nursing expertise among perianesthesia nurses in an acute care setting.

**Methodology:** An Internal Review Board (IRB) approved quasi-experimental pre-/post survey-intervention design study was conducted. Sixty perianesthesia nurses with experience ranging from <5 to >20 years of experience completed the study. Pre and Post-intervention surveys were completed to evaluate knowledge, confidence, and early recognition of nursing expertise. Although participants were assigned a code to match changes from pre to post assessment, many participants did not remember their code. In addition, eight participants did not complete the post intervention assessment. These issues resulted in the decision to use unmatched group analyses using independent samples t-tests.

**Results:** The ASPAN PCBO was shown to be statistically effective at increasing knowledge, expertise, confidence, and improving decision making skills related to caring for the pediatric patient population.

**Discussion:** A literature search provided limited results concerning the implementation of a structured didactic, such as the ASPAN PCBO, being used in the orientation of perianesthesia nurses caring for the pediatric surgical population. A clear evidence-gap was identified. MMC had an opportunity to study the effects of implementing the ASPAN PCBO didactic. The study demonstrated that utilizing ASPAN's PCBO directly correlated with the improvement of the nurses' knowledge, confidence, and early recognition of nursing expertise.

**Conclusion:** The MMC study demonstrated that increasing the nurses' knowledge regarding pediatric patients would result in a positive correlation in confidence, critical thinking ability, and comfort levels of the nurses.

**Implications for perianesthesia nurses & future research:** The statistical data from this study supports including the ASPAN PCBO in perianesthesia nurses' orientation and to be utilized as an ongoing valuable resource for the practicing perianesthesia nurse. However, due to the limited amount of literature currently available on the subject, further research into the subject should be conducted.