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

Juanita Baroya, MSN-Ph, RN, CPAN; Sandra Ramos, MSN, RN, CPAN;
Kristine O’Neill, MSN, RN, CPAN, NPD-BC;
Ryan MacDonald, PhD; Dina Krenzischek, PhD, RN, MAS, CPAN, CFRE, FASPAN, FAAN
Mercy Medical Center, Baltimore, Maryland

Introduction
At Mercy Medical Center (MMC), historically in the main PACU, the nurses cared for a primarily adult patient population. With the restructuring of all surgical patients to the main PACU and the opening of a new orthopedic surgical suite, changes occurred with the pediatric patient population. The nurses who would be providing care for the pediatric patients were lacking exposure to this patient population.

Identification of Problem
Subsequently, the experienced perianesthesia nurses verbalized concerns related to the pediatric patient population:

- Feelings of anxiety
- Lack of confidence
- Uncertainty

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.

Research Question
Does the implementation of the ASPAN PCBO tool increase the knowledge, confidence, and early recognition of nursing expertise in the pediatric patient population for primarily adult perianesthesia nurses?

Methods
- Research Design: A quasi-experimental pre/post survey-intervention designed to assess changes in the nurses’ pediatric knowledge, confidence, and early recognition of nursing expertise using the ASPAN PCBO
- Sample: Inclusion criteria included nurses working in the Preop, PACU Phase I, and PACU Phase II in an acute care community facility. Nurses who chose not to participate in the study and non-perianesthesia nurses were excluded. A total of convenience sample size was 60 nurses
- An Internal Review Board (IRB) approved quasi-experimental anonymous pre/post survey-intervention design study was conducted
- Pre and post intervention surveys were completed to evaluate knowledge, confidence, and early recognition of nursing expertise
- Codes were assigned to participants
- Unmatched group analysis using independent samples t-test compared the change in mean scores pre and post application of the PCBO

Results Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Confidence and Recognition of Nursing Expertise</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>t-value</th>
<th>p-value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge Subscale 4-items</td>
<td>Pre</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>Post</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
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<td>Communication Subscale 2-items</td>
<td>Pre</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>Post</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.005</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education Subscale 2-items</td>
<td>Pre</td>
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<td>5.5</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>Post</td>
<td>52</td>
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<td>0.9</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
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<td>Medication Subscale 1-item</td>
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<td>2.4</td>
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<td>Post</td>
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<td>&lt;0.001</td>
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<td>Self-Management Subscale 5-items</td>
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<td>1.5</td>
<td>Post</td>
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<td>14.9</td>
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<td>0.7</td>
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<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
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<td>&lt;0.001</td>
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<td>Confidence Scale Total 33-items</td>
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<td>13.5</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outcomes/Results
Participants reported an increase in each of the seven subscales: assessment, communication, education, medication, self-management, teamwork, and knowledge. The total confidence index, a sum of the seven subscales, increased significantly. The recognition of nursing expertise scale increased from 43.4 to 48.6, an 11% relative increase in nursing expertise.

Discussion
- It was hypothesized that an increase in knowledge, confidence, and early recognition of nursing expertise would be seen post implementation of the ASPAN PCBO didactic
- The study demonstrated utilizing ASPAN’s PCBO directly correlated with the improvement of the nurses’ knowledge, confidence, and early recognition of nursing expertise

Limitations
The study was conducted at an acute care community hospital with a limited amount of pediatric patients who were typically seen in the early hours of the day. Data collection was a challenge and frequent follow up and reminders were required.

Implications for Perianesthesia Nurses & Future Research
The ASPAN PCBO was demonstrated to be a resource for experienced and novice practicing perianesthesia nurses. By increasing the nurses’ knowledge of the pediatric patient population, the nurses are better prepared to provide high quality patient care, improve patient/family satisfaction, and improve patient outcomes. Due to the study limitations and limited evidence on the subject, future studies should be conducted to further validate the findings.

Conclusion
The study validated the application of the ASPAN PCBO does correlate with improved knowledge, confidence, and early recognition of expertise among adult perianesthesia nurses.

Special Acknowledgements
The Internal Review Board
The Perianesthesia Nursing Staff
The Perianesthesia Leadership Team

References