Introduction

Health consumers are more knowledgeable about the safety and quality of care they want. Expert nursing and medical care. Certification shows that nurses possess advanced nursing knowledge, expertise, and competence in their specialty field of practice.

ASPAN supports specialty certification as a strategy to ensure continuing clinical knowledge and skills as a means to deliver quality and safe patient care.

Problem

The benefits of professional nursing certification have been widely supported. There is a recognized need to identify and address the barriers and strategies to promote specialty certification amongst Perianesthesia Nurses in the Crane Surgical Suite at Mercy Medical Center (MMC).

- 40% Percentage of staff aware of the Perianesthesia Nursing (CAPA/CPAN) certification
- 28% Percentage of Crane Preop/PACU nurses who are certified
- 1% Percentage of Crane RNs certified in Perianesthesia nursing

EBP Question

“What are the best strategies for promoting and increasing the completion of certification among Perianesthesia Nurses?”

Evidence

A literature review was completed using CINAHL and PubMed research databases.

Keywords used: nursing certification, values of certification, barriers to certification, patient outcomes.

Search results yielded a total of 72 articles, 26 articles were deemed relevant.

Strength, Quality & Synthesis of Evidence

- 16 articles were appraised using the John Hopkins Nursing Evidence-Based Research Appraisal Tool.
- 7 articles were appraised using the Critical Appraisal Skills Programme.

Evidence showed that healthcare organizations that support specialty certification in nursing can have a direct impact on desire, success, and overall outcome.

Methodology

A mixed dichotomous question & Likert-style survey tool was utilized to collect quantitative data pre & post intervention.

Pre & Post Survey Results

"Are you aware of the CAPA (for Preop RNs) or CPAN (for PACU RNs) certification?", the response was as follows:

- "Yes": 85% Pre Survey
- "No": 15% Pre Survey

"Are you interested in obtaining certification in the future?", the response was as follows:

- "Extremely Likely": 59% Pre Survey
- "Likely": 22% Pre Survey
- "Neutral": 10% Pre Survey
- "Unlikely": 9% Pre Survey
- "Extremely Unlikely": 0% Pre Survey

"Do you intend to seek certification in the future?", the response was as follows:

- "Yes": 90% Pre Survey
- "No": 10% Pre Survey

Evidence showed that healthcare organizations that support specialty certification in nursing can have a direct impact on desire, success, and overall outcome.

Significance of Findings

Certification "champions", mentors, and the workshop program with test assurance were implemented with the certification station.

Continuous education and support were evaluated as a step toward leadership buy-in.

Translation of evidence

Strategies were implemented to address the barriers identified by Crane Preop/PACU Nurses

- Staff education/information on CAPA and CPAN certification including exam blueprint, registration & examination windows, eligibility requirements, and a step-by-step guide with forms for material reimbursement.
- Easy access to a dedicated workspace with a computer & exam prep materials (i.e., workbooks, pens, ASPAN recommended review books, PowerPoints, and QR codes for on-demand review courses & upcoming important sessions)

Implications for Perianesthesia Nurses

Providing meaningful resources & ensuring barriers to certification increases the likelihood of nurses to prepare and take the exam.

Organizations must facilitate & support their nurses’ journey toward certification.

Perianesthesia units seeking to increase certification rates could implement similar strategies to increase the likelihood of success.