

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work: Enhancing Patient Safety Through Interprofessional Collaboration

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Introduction: As a new hospital with team members from a variety of health systems, experience levels, and backgrounds it was important to create an environment where multidisciplinary teams could work collaboratively with patient safety and outcomes at the forefront of their focus.

Identification of the Problem: In this new facility, the lack of pre-existing relationships and shared purpose led to individual responsibility over collective ownership, reducing accountability. Apprehension and inaccessibility among staff discouraged open dialogue, impeding problem-solving, team cohesion, and compromising patient safety.

QI Question/Purpose of the Study: This initiative aims to foster enhanced communication and collaboration between Pre/Post nurses and CRNAs, ultimately contributing to improved patient safety, a more positive work environment, and increased staff satisfaction.

Methods: An RN/CRNA partnership was established to enhance collaboration, with dedicated representatives' meeting monthly to address workflow, issues, and educational gaps. These champions serve as points of contact for staff, while the partnership offers shadowing opportunities and tailored educational sessions to bridge identified knowledge gaps.

Outcomes/Results: A pre- and post-survey showed significant improvements after the RN/CRNA partnership. Before, 30% of staff felt patient safety was compromised due to communication breakdowns, dropping to 16.67% post-initiation. Effective handoff communication improved from 35% to 72.22%, and 77.78% agreed the partnership enhanced the CRNA-staff working relationship.

Discussion: Effective teamwork and communication are paramount to optimizing patient safety. When these elements are compromised, patient safety is jeopardized. By fostering stronger relationships between these teams, they are now able to collaborate more effectively, resulting in an enhanced quality of patient care.

Conclusion: Collaboration between perioperative nurses and CRNAs is not only desirable but essential for providing safe, effective, and compassionate patient care. By fostering open communication, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to patient well-being, we can create a healthcare environment where everyone thrives.

Implications for perianesthesia nurses and future research: Effective collaboration between nurses and CRNAs enables efficient task delegation, resulting in smoother procedures and better resource use. Open communication aligns everyone on patient needs and risks, leading to improved outcomes. Their teamwork also helps catch potential errors early, reducing mistakes and enhancing overall patient safety.