Navigating Excellence: Perianesthesia Nursing Olympics

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Introduction: The Perianesthesia Olympics was a groundbreaking quality improvement (QI) project designed to elevate the confidence of perianesthesia staff in performing perianesthesia practice related tasks. This initiative sought to reinforce perianesthesia practices by incorporating evidence-based guidelines and principles of adult learning. The focus of this project was to systematically evaluate the effectiveness of these innovative educational activities in improving confidence, enforcing standards of care, and ultimately enhancing patient outcomes.

Identification of the Problem: As an education team, we identified common tasks related to safety within the perianesthesia setting. These tasks involved high-risk medications, responding to emergent scenarios, or common safety concerns which can impact patient safety and outcomes.

QI Question/Purpose of the Study: The purpose of the Perianesthesia Olympics was to enhance patient safety and outcomes by assessing and improving the confidence of perianesthesia nurses in performing perianesthesia related tasks without decreasing their motivation.

Methods: Data was collected through a series of structured activities designed to address identified practice gaps. Participants identified their confidence and motivation before and after each game. The Perianesthesia Olympics included five distinct activities: Ryanodex Mixing, Personal Protective Equipment Donning and Doffing, Room of Errors, Medical Waste Sorting and Code Cart Search.

Outcomes/Results: Structured evaluations conducted before and after each game allowed for a comprehensive assessment of confidence and motivation levels. Participants demonstrated improved confidence in performing a designated task without negatively affecting motivation.

Discussion: The Perianesthesia Olympics activity exemplified nursing professionals in the perianesthesia setting by integrating collaboration, innovation, evidence, and compassionate care. The activity's design was shaped by multidisciplinary perspectives, ensuring alignment with practice gaps and learning needs.

Conclusion: The Perianesthesia Olympics successfully enhanced the knowledge and confidence of perianesthesia staff, bridging practice gaps and elevating patient care outcomes. The initiative demonstrated significant improvements in participants' confidence in performing perianesthesia practice tasks.

Implications for perianesthesia nurses and future research: The Perianesthesia Olympics provided a model for similar educational activities that can be implemented in all

healthcare settings. Future research should explore the long-term impact of such initiatives on patient outcomes and knowledge retention.