

Advancing Pediatric Perianesthesia Nursing Practice
Implementing the Donna Wright Competency Framework
Primary Investigator: Eliza Lopes MSN/ED CPAN CAPA CPN HMCT
Stanford Childrens Hospital, Palo Alto, CA

Introduction: In pediatric peri-anesthesia units, preventable hospital errors are often tied to inconsistent nurse skills. Traditional tools like checklists are ineffective because they don't engage staff or adapt to changing clinical needs.

Identification of the Problem: In March 2025, a review at Stanford Children's Hospital revealed a problem: only 65% of peri-anesthesia nurses were comfortable with key clinical skills. This low confidence was a potential risk for patient errors, prompting a quality improvement initiative to address the issue.

QI Question/Purpose of the Study: A quality improvement (QI) project was launched to see if a Donna Wright Competency Model intervention could increase peri-anesthesia nurses' comfort with key clinical skills. The specific goal was to boost comfort levels by at least 15%.

Methods: To assess the impact of the intervention, a pre- and post-intervention survey was administered to participating nurses. The survey used a 4-point Likert scale to measure self-reported comfort levels with seven core clinical skills. A total of 30 nurses completed both the initial and final assessments, providing the data for the project's analysis.

Outcomes/Results: The new skills training worked. Overall high comfort levels for nurses jumped 32.09%, with those feeling "very comfortable" increasing from 36.9% to 55.7%. This outcome far surpassed the project's goal of a 15% improvement, showing the intervention was a clear success.

Discussion: Skills Day, a new staff-driven learning model, was implemented to boost nurse comfort with key clinical skills. The project used lectures, simulations, and hands-on stations, with results measured by pre- and post-surveys from 30 nurses. The outcome was a 32.09% increase in overall comfort, with "very comfortable" responses jumping from 36.9% to 55.7%. This significantly exceeded the project's goal, proving that interactive, staff-focused training can effectively enhance nurse confidence.

Conclusion: The study concludes that using the Donna Wright Competency Model for a skills-based intervention can significantly enhance nurse confidence and competency. The "Skills Day" approach proved to be a highly effective method for engaging staff and improving their self-reported comfort with critical clinical skills.

Implications for perianesthesia nurses and future research: To sustain gains, this competency model should be built into long-term professional development. Future research should track skill retention, improve survey tools, and test the model's use in other high-acuity nursing specialties.