

Advancing Peri-Anesthesia Practice: Creation and Growth of a Specialty Nursing Conference

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BACKGROUND

Ongoing professional development is essential to maintaining clinical excellence and advancing the practice of peri-anesthesia nursing. As healthcare evolves, nurses must stay informed about reformed evidence, updated peri-anesthesia guidelines, and innovated patient care strategies. As nursing professional development practitioners and specialists, commonly known as nurse educators, recognizing the importance of continuous education and interhospital collaboration, a peri-anesthesia conference was developed to provide a structured forum for the peri-anesthesia space.

OBJECTIVE

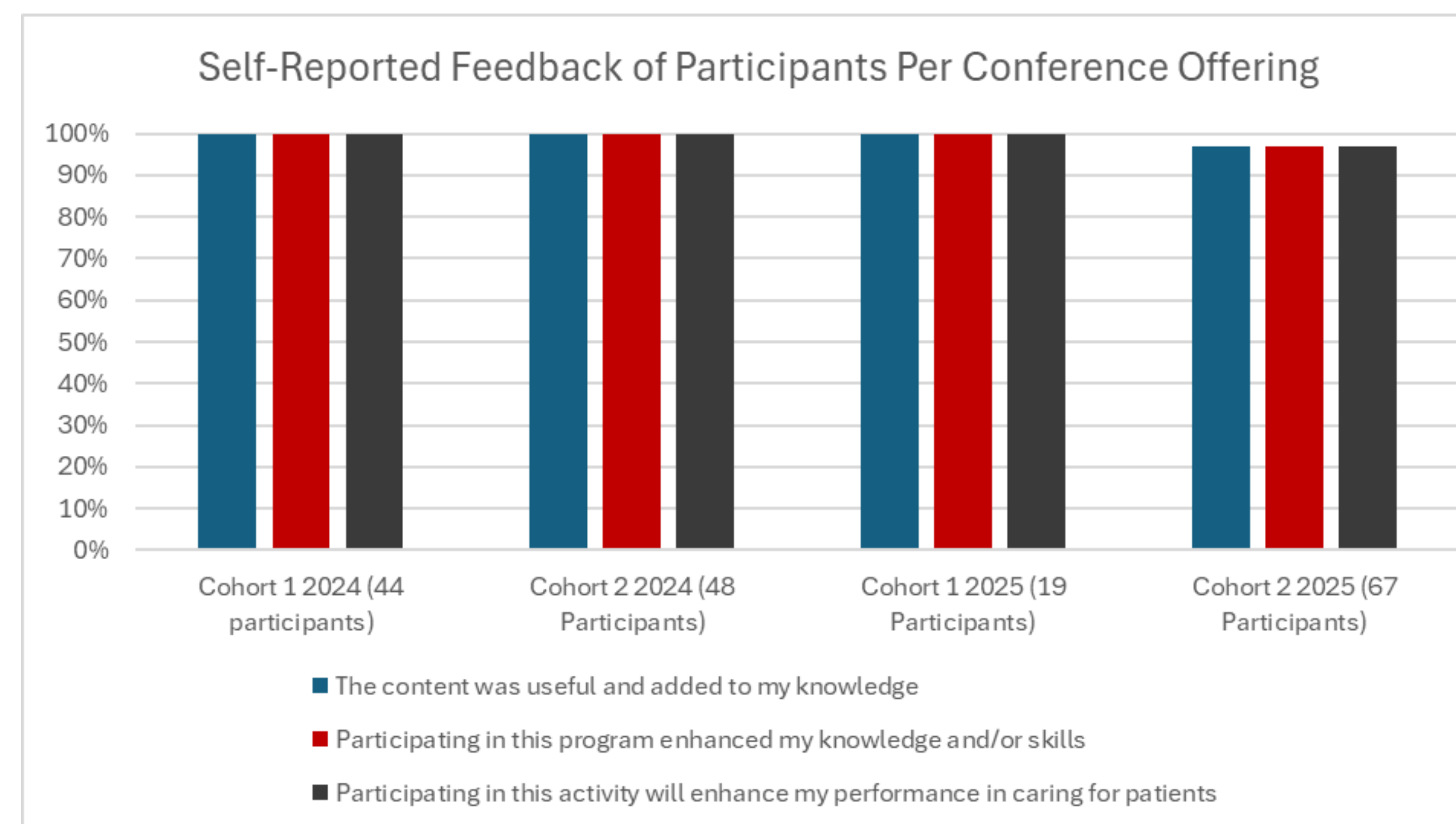
The purpose of this project was to create and implement a Peri-Anesthesia nursing conference that promoted continuing education, professional networking, and excellence in clinical practice. This initiative aimed to support nurse engagement, advance specialty knowledge, and foster a culture of lifelong learning within the peri-anesthesia community.

METHODOLOGY

A learning needs assessment was performed with a gap identified, through request of staff members, to create a conference. A planning committee comprised of nursing professional development practitioners and specialists, commonly known as nurse educators, staff input, clinical leaders, and interdisciplinary experts such as CRNA. The committee collaborated to develop evidence-based presentations, interactive/gamification stations, escape room designs, and open discussion spaces to engage with other colleagues. The conference was marketed across the New Jersey RWJBH hospital sites with attendance from over 12 different hospitals. Attendance was open to all peri-anesthesia nurses which included Post Anesthesia Care Unit, Same Day Surgery, and preadmission testing. RWJBH aligned with the accreditation by the ANCC and provided 6.5 contact hours.

RESULTS

Post-conference survey was created using the survey monkey platform. The survey consisted of 12 questions raking the speakers and included a space for open-ended comments. This was used to assess participation satisfaction, perceived knowledge gain, and suggestions for future conferences.



Feedback from Participants:

- "Excellent program. We need more of this."

- "Very informative conference! Great and very knowledgeable speakers! Flow and topics on point. I highly recommend that all RNs in this field attend this conference if given again in the future!"

- "First time at this peri-anesthesia conference, and it was awesome!"

- "As a leader who does not have a PACU background, this conference improved by knowledge of challenges in PACU. Wonderful presentations and appreciated the variety of learning tools. Kept me engaged throughout."



CONCLUSION

Through our collaboration, we identified a knowledge gap as well as an opportunity to re-launch live learning for this unique care area. Currently, our peri-operative population comprises of greater than 70% ambulatory patients. Our goal was to address the requests of the staff for additional learning opportunities. Topics presented included anesthesia medication, cardiac emergencies, fluid balance, self-care for nurses, ventilator management, arterial line set-up, ways to improve EHR documentation, and fun and interactive gamification to promote advancement of specialty expertise. Anecdotally, many nurses provided positive feedback regarding networking and reconnecting with previous colleagues. This promoted comradery across a large multi-site healthcare system. Due to the great positive reputation of this conference, we have now been able to continue to offer bi-annual conferences with innovative topics and discussions.

IMPLICATIONS

The creation of the Peri-Anesthesia nursing conference demonstrated the value of proactive educational initiatives in promoting professional engagement and clinical excellence. Sustaining this conference for future years needs the support of a culture of professional development and from a multitude of interdisciplinary team members and stakeholders. Limitations for future conferences include updating concepts and topics, adding relevant information, and continuing involvement from leadership teams and stakeholder buyout.



References:

