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UNDERSTANDING THROMBOLYSIS: IMPROVING PATIENT CARE

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Background Information: Thrombolysis is a process used to break up abnormal blood flow in veins and arteries. Catheter-directed thrombolysis treats vascular blockages and improves blood flow by dissolving abnormal blood clots or by mechanically removing the clots using radiology imaging. Understanding the pathophysiology behind what is causing the thrombus in the patient is as important as managing the patient pre and post thrombolysis procedures. Catheter-directed thrombolysis is a minimally invasive endovascular treatment that is used as an adjunct to anticoagulation. This is a procedure that is performed in Interventional Radiology and the nurses that receive these patients need to understand how to manage them. These patients are often critical and need personalized care and close attention.

Objectives of Project: The purpose of this project is to educate nurses in Interventional Radiology (IR), Intensive Care Units (ICU), and other departments about the pathophysiology of the thrombolysis procedure, along with the preparation, management, and post-procedure care of patients undergoing thrombolysis.

Process of Implementation: The IR shared governance team recognized a gap in knowledge regarding Thrombolysis procedures and the care of patients post-procedure. Current evidence was reviewed and an educational Power Point was created. All members of the IR shared governance team reviewed and offered feedback. The IR Director also reviewed the Power Point for content. Education will be uploaded to the health system’s education platform.

Statement of Successful Practice: At the conclusion of the education, learners will be able to describe thrombolysis and how the procedure is performed, define deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism and several methods of treatment for both, and explain the care and management of the patient undergoing Thrombolysis.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Nurses caring for these patients need to understand what to manage and report back to the physician such as changes in mental status, acute headache, nausea/vomiting, and any neurovascular changes. RNs also need to understand appropriate dosages and rates of thrombolytic agents as ordered by the physician in order to properly care for the patient.

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PACU EDUCATION STANDARDIZATION FOR PACU PROTOCOLS

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Background Information: New PACU staff nurses are assigned two preceptors for a three-month orientation. It was noted that a lot of variation existed in the education of orientees regarding various protocols in the PACU. Pre-survey results showed that 47% of staff felt as though there were inconsistencies from preceptor to preceptor. Furthermore, we discussed with new staff and orientees areas where they felt discrepancies existed in their orientation, which included documentation and checking of patient-controlled analgesia (PCA), frequency of vital signs, documentation of assessments, and various competencies, such as arterial lines.

Objectives of Project: The objective of this project is to streamline the education and orientation process so that each new PACU staff nurse receives consistent information from both preceptors. By standardizing education, the PACU staff nurse would be able to improve workflow and compliance with PACU policies, also allowing for consistent documentation throughout the duration of their time in PACU.

Process of Implementation: A ten question anonymous survey monkey was sent out to all staff regarding PACU policies and documentation to evaluate which areas re-education was needed for PACU nurses. All PACU nurses were then in-serviced on PACU policies and documentation on the topics highlighted in the survey results. We educated on six different topics and then conducted a post-education survey to determine the effectiveness of the in-services.

Statement of Successful Practice: On pre-survey there was a large gap in the knowledge surrounding various protocols utilized in the PACU. On average nurses answered 64.7% of the questions correctly prior to in-services. After education on protocols, post-survey results showed an improvement to 89.2%.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Standardization of the practices and implementation of hospital wide protocols allows for consistent and streamlined care of patients throughout their hospital stay, beginning with their arrival to the PACU and then transitioning to their destination. This allows for consistent and specific care for the large variety of disciplines and acuity of patients seen in this and other similar PACUs.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF A VIRTUAL SIMULATION-BASED TEAMWORK TRAINING PROGRAM FOR EMERGENCY EVENTS IN THE PERIOPERATIVE SETTING

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Team Members: Cara Lorenzi, BSN RN CCRN CPAN, Danielle Mouradjian, MSN RN CCRN

Background Information: Working in interprofessional teams in healthcare is listed as one of the four core competencies for interprofessional collaborative practice. Literature demonstrates that communication failures during emergencies are a large contributor to adverse clinical events that negatively impact patient outcomes. Additionally, The Joint Commission identifies communication as a key factor in sentinel events. A survey addressing teamwork and high-quality communication was distributed to the Perioperative Department, which revealed that the “communication openness” category received a score below AHRQ benchmark. The perioperative leadership team was tasked with developing strategic working groups in response to the poorly scored communication domain.

Objectives of Project: (1) Participants will be able to implement the communication tool represented within the TeamSTEPPS platform; (2) Participants will be able to discuss the importance of effective communication during emergency clinical events; (3) Participants will be able to optimize teamwork communication skills to improve patient outcomes during emergency clinical events.

Process of Implementation: The team discussed and leveraged the survey findings to develop innovative ways to improve communication for the Perioperative team, including physicians, nurses, and ancillary staff. As a part of the action plan, the team decided to use simulation education aimed toward effective communication during emergency clinical events. However, COVID-19 required social distancing-based learning. Therefore, the team developed an experiential-learning-rich presentation with pre-recorded clinical
emergency videos of participatory, active simulation to demonstrate the main teamwork and communication tools represented within the TeamSTEPPS model. All disciplines participated in role-playing communication aids to demonstrate teamwork and handoff scenarios depicted within the observed simulation video clips.

Statement of Successful Practice: Open-ended anonymous surveys distributed after sessions demonstrated that individuals participating in the virtual simulation sessions has allowed for increased opportunities to effectively communicate based on shared goals, shared knowledge, and mutual respect during clinical emergency events and daily practice. Additionally, participants reported intentions to apply the TeamSTEPPS concepts, such as situational awareness, mutual support, and communication in their future practices.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Utilizing observed virtual simulation methods of team training allows for future opportunities of distributed learning for high fidelity team training sessions in efforts to improve communication between the perioperative team and optimize care of all Perianesthesia patient populations.

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PREOP TO PACU: A NURSING ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR PREOP NURSES TO ATTAIN COMPETENCY IN THE CARE OF THE PACU PATIENT

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Background Information: Perioperative patient throughput has been affected due to infrastructure changes, increased volume of outpatients, new patient populations, admissions, and recovering inpatients returning to their unit. The extended wait times for placement throughout the hospital and the potential increase in the incidence of operating room (OR) holds prompted training of the preoperative nursing staff to a post anesthesia care unit (PACU) in a large academic medical center.

Objectives of Project: Objectives of the project include: (1) Prepare and train all preoperative nurses with minimal critical care background with the clinical skills to safely care for all patient populations in PACU.

Process of Implementation: The perioperative leadership team acknowledged cross-training as a judicious solution maximizing patient throughput. The leadership team and 3 clinical level IV nurses developed a comprehensive, cross-training orientation program for the preoperative nursing staff to ensure competency in caring for the PACU patient. The orientation included a two-day, 10 hours in length, critical care course and an 8 week bedside orientation with identified preceptors. The critical care course content encompassed the didactic components of a comprehensive PACU nursing orientation program based on the Perianesthesia Core Curriculum. The didactic curriculum, along with the bedside orientation process, covered patient progression through both phase I and phase II of the perioperative levels of care. The implementation of simulation and the utilization of case studies, and competency assessment tools provided a multimodal approach to ensuring the preoperative nurses acquired sufficient knowledge and assessment skills in the PACU clinical setting. Training began with the ‘pilot’ orientation of 2 preoperative nurses and one medical-surgical nurse to the PACU setting. The goal was to have all preoperative nurses complete the program.

Statement of Successful Practice: All nurses completed the orientation program and have been successfully trained to safely care for all PACU patients independently. An anonymous survey administered to all nurses who completed the program expressed that the education and training program prepared them to care for all patient populations in the PACU setting.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: The orientation program has created a comprehensive nursing team which allows for efficient distribution of staffing to facilitate perioperative patient care and throughput.

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FROM OLD TO NEW: PROCESS OF INTEGRATING PACU PHASE 1 DOCUMENTATION AND WORKFLOW FROM OLD ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD (EHR) SYSTEM TO NEW ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD (EHR) SYSTEM

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Background Information: In 2019, a new Electronic Health Record (EHR) was implemented to standardize and streamline access of patient health records across the health care system. Meaningful use of EHR provides benefits such as safety, quality, and efficiency in patient-care delivery. The adoption of the new EHR system has created significant disruption in the complex workflow of busy units, as well as frustration to users specifically in the usability functions of the new EHR system. This project will outline strategies and processes to ensure that resources are equipped to handle its complexity by employing methods to assist user for seamless transition from an old EHR system to new EHR system in phase 1 PACU.

Objectives of Project:
- Identify and create a framework of key elements to bridge the gap in nursing documentation
- Provide educational tools focusing on the change in workflow and documentation of clinical pathways
- Create an audit tool to address nursing documentation compliance

Process of Implementation: Identified super users to serve as unit resources. Staff training included mandatory learning modules, post-tests, and unlimited practice simulations. All PACU workflow and clinical pathways were reviewed and revised to ensure the necessary “must haves” were included in the new platform. Created tip sheets of new workflow processes. An audit tool was created to address nursing compliance issues and cover key elements of workflow and documentation of clinical pathways. Leveraged use of lean methodology through daily huddle discussion of issues and generating ideas.

Statement of Successful Practice: The goals of the EHR implementation were achieved by familiarizing users with the new system through education, hands-on training, and constant follow through via lean methodology. Success was measured by rate of resolution of issues which achieved 100% by February 2020. Completion rate of RN documentation audits exceeded the set goal by 12.4%.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Providing the appropriate education and hands-on training served as of great value for successful implementation. The tip sheets created by the team improved effectiveness of user workflow and was spread to several PACU facilities within the healthcare system & vendor for their education and training.

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DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION CHAMPION FOR PERIOPERATIVE SERVICES: A NEW ROLE

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Background Information: It is well-established that better inclusion and diversity practices in healthcare are needed to improve equity. Perioperative