Continued staff education and MCI drills empower nursing staff to feel confident and prepared to support many casualties of varying acuity levels. Therefore, the PACU is a viable option to support capacity management by providing ICU-level care for traumatically injured patients, and promoting forward flow out of the Emergency Department.

**SUPPORTING PERIANESTHESIA NURSES THROUGHOUT THE TRANSITION TO ONE COHESIVE UNIT**

Team Leader: Marie Courtney, BSN RN CPAN CAPA
Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts
Team Member: Heather Murphy, BSN RN CAPA

**Background Information:**
- Brigham and Women’s Hospital Perianesthesia area consists of 4 units: Pre-op Unit, Day Surgery Unit (DSU), Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) and Extended Recovery Unit (ERU)
- Each nurse in these units have a specific skill set and are not cross trained in each area
- The Main OR volume is growing and hold times are increasing
- The decision was made to cross train all nurses and blend the 4 Perianesthesia units

**Objectives of the Project:**
- To blend all existing units into one Perianesthesia unit
- To cross train all staff to care for patients across the Perianesthesia area
- To decrease OR hold times
- To allow for better flow and more adaptability of staff

**Process of Implementation:**
- The Pre-op Unit, DSU, PACU, and ERU blended in September 2018
- Cross training began with 2 nurses at a time
- Each nurse provided with orientation and education based on prior skill set
- Orientation adapted for each nurse to facilitate competency in pre-op, phase 1 and phase 2 level of care

**Statement of Successful Practice:**
- Blending of units has allowed for more bed availability
- OR holds have decreased
- Increased flexibility of nurses to move through the Perianesthesia area to improve flow

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:**
- The cross training of nurses allows for a broader skill set to care for the Perianesthesia patient
- Nurses in the Perianesthesia area are more adaptable and able to safely care for any patient

---

**Note:** All abstracts are printed as received from the authors.