

# Promoting Perioperative Practice through an Innovative Undergraduate Education Program



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## BACKGROUND

- ❖ Perioperative nursing is one of the largest specialty nursing groups in Canada
- ❖ There is a continual and detrimental shortage of skilled nurses to provide specialized care in the operating room (OR) setting
- ❖ Undergraduate programs are well situated to expose students to this practice environment
- ❖ Advantages to the student, to the patient, to the School of Nursing, and to the employing agency can result from an undergraduate practice experience in the perioperative setting

## OBJECTIVE

- ❖ To outline the process and outcomes of an undergraduate perioperative clinical experience

## PROCESS

- ❖ Students spend time in Daycare Surgery (DCS)- Pre-op assessments and patient care, informed consent process, post-op assessments, pain control, patient teaching, relational practice, discharge
- ❖ Operating room (OR)- Develop understanding of circulating and scrub role, principles of asepsis, scrub-in, assist with transport, reporting, monitoring and relational practice
- ❖ Post-Anesthesia Recovery (PAR)-take report, post-operative assessments, medication administration, enhanced understanding of airway management, ECG practice, documentation, discharge criteria



## OUTCOMES

- ❖ Advantages include;
  - ❖ Student – Enhanced competency in clinical decision-making, prioritization, critical thinking, collaboration and communication, multidisciplinary teamwork, anatomy and physiology, patient-centered care and advocacy, relational practice
  - ❖ Patient- Enhanced quality of care, decreased anxiety, increased education opportunity due to more time available for patient interaction
  - ❖ School- Valuable surgical placement option for students, provides students with transferable skills
  - ❖ Hospital- Recruitment and retention potential



## EVALUATION

- ❖ Course Evaluation- N=41
  - ❖ The course was a valuable experience for me- 98% agreed or strongly agreed
  - ❖ The course challenged me to do my best work- 97% agreed or strongly agreed
  - ❖ The course experience increased my appreciation for the subject matter- 97% agreed or strongly agreed

## CONCLUSION

- ❖ Undergraduate Schools of Nursing can provide quality education in perioperative environment
- ❖ Student feedback:
  - ❖ *“After working in the OR I definitely know that I want to come work in the OR in the future.”*
  - ❖ *“I was able to practice many nursing skills including IV push medications, client assessments, bladder scanning, catheterization, mechanical ventilation (bagging) and removing IV’s. I am very grateful I had the opportunity to employ these skills into my practice”*

## REFERENCES

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