Floatation Devices: Assisting Peri-anesthesia Units Keep Afloat During High Volume Periods

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Floatation Devices: Assisting Peri-anesthesia Units Keep Afloat During High Volume Periods

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Surgical Staging Unit - PREOP
- Patient admitted day of procedure
  - 22 beds
- Challenges:
  - LOA, FMLA, & resignations of staff
  - Number of patients admitted
  - Responsibilities, such as surgical clippings
  - Increase in ‘same day’ procedures

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Purpose
- Create a buffer between the peri-anesthesia units from a central pool of nurses
- Decrease concern over leave of absences and paid time off
- Flex staff in different areas during high patient volumes
- Assist with higher acuity patients

Education Orientation
- Complete the 6-month critical care course provided by LVHN called ECCO (Essentials of Critical Care Orientation)
- Complete a 6-month orientation to each of the three units—Surgical Staging, PACU, and Holding Room
- Assigned a “PACU pal” as a resource after orientation complete
- 12 nurses received this unique training

Outcome
- Deeper understanding of the peri-anesthesia continuum throughout the peri-anesthesia units
- Positive effect on morale between the peri-anesthesia units
- Appropriate staffing throughout the day during high acuity times
- FMLA and LOA do not affect staffing

Lessons Learned:
- Coordinator for float pool staff to determine vacation schedule, schedule compliments, and daily assignments for floats based on daily staffing in peri-anesthesia units
- Coordinator works with float nurse to assure minimal ‘jumping’ from assignment to assignment to decrease risk of errors

PACU
- Phase 1 recovery after the operating room
- 23 beds
- Challenges:
  - LOA, FMLA, break coverage
  - Critical care patients with 1:1 ratio
  - ASPAN standards
  - Influx of patients in afternoon

Surgical Staging Unit - POSTOP
- Phase 2 of recovery
- Prepare Patients for discharge
- 8 beds
- Challenges:
  - 3 full time employees, 1 unlicensed
  - Influx of patients in afternoon
  - Patients require frequent vitals, walking, eating, and discharge transfer

Holding Room
- Preoperative procedures (Nerve Blocks or Epidurals)
- Last stop for inpatients before going into the operating room
- 7 beds
- Challenges:
  - Two full time staff
  - Volume of procedures
  - ASPAN sedation standards
  - Influx of patients in the morning