Regional Collaboration to Bridge the Gap for Low Volume Pediatric Surgical Patients

Kaiser Permanente Westside Medical Center | Portland, Oregon

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Background

Pediatric patients that undergo routine surgical operations outside of a specialty facility or pediatric hospital may face greater risks in the recovery room simply because of the low volume. In 2016, only 54 patients out of 6,429 total surgical cases per year were pediatric (.008%) age group 7-16 at Kaiser Permanente Westside Medical Center (KWMC).

Recovery Room nurses traditionally maintain certification in Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) but find it difficult to sustain their skills unique to this patient and age specific population.

Strategy

Collaborate with Kaiser Interstate Ambulatory Surgery center (INT ASC), a pediatric center for out-patient surgeries, to design a regional project expanding their current "Pedi Partnering" model as follows:

Purpose

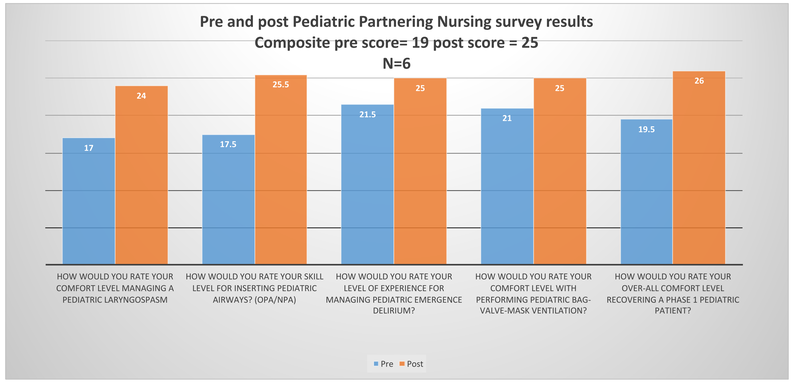
The purpose of this collaboration is to optimize pediatric patient safety in the recovery room (PACU). Developing Pediatric Nurse Champions and increasing the nurses' exposure to appropriate skills and training with pediatric anesthesia providers and peer experts in the field.

"I would like to improve my comfort level with pediatric emergencies."

Kimberly Hampton BSN, RN

Results

- Seven RN volunteers qualified as Pediatric Champions in the PACU at Westside Medical Center.
- Pedi-Partnering shadow dates with anesthesia providers have started.
- Hands-on experience with airway maneuvers and airway emergencies.
- On-line modules 100% completed.
- Integration to Regional Pediatric Surgical Operations Group, Regional Pediatric Care Team Committee and Regional Pediatric Emergency Response Committee.
- Composite pre and post comfort level scores increased by 6 points on a 5 point scale.



Conclusions

We anticipate by implementing Pediatric Nurse Champions and consistent patient focused hands-on training, that the comfort level of RNs will improve in application and practice; thus optimizing patient safety.