

Who's Who in the PACU? Role Designation During Emergencies

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Introduction: There is ample evidence that high performance teams are vital to patient survival during emergency events. Role designation among clinicians is key for high-performing emergency response teams.

Identification of the problem: Poor team dynamics and communication breakdown is often the cause of preventable errors with patient mortality/morbidity occurring more often when team dynamics fail. Lack of role designation may lead to adverse patient outcomes during emergency events.

EBP Question/Purpose: Does role designation strategy impact PACU staff team dynamics during emergency situations?

Databases/Resources Utilized: CINAHL PubMed UpToDate ASPAN 2021 Scope and Standards AHA 2020 Pediatric Advanced Life Support Guidelines finding 12 articles and selecting *Mayo High Performance Teamwork Scale*. Synthesized findings support role designation as an effective strategy for high performing emergency response teams and simulation as a learning tool to improve knowledge confidence and clinical skills.

Purpose: Implement and evaluate the effectiveness of an evidence-based role designation strategy for PACU staff during emergency situations with aims to improve staff confidence staff knowledge and team dynamics.

Methods/Evidence: *Pre-intervention:* Survey distributed to PACU staff to assess knowledge of emergency skill/concepts with 5-point Likert scale measuring confidence of role assumption and skills needed for each role. Team dynamics evaluated using the validated *Mayo High Performance Teamwork Scale* during unit mock codes.

Intervention: Education via skill stations for the following roles/concepts: Effective Team Dynamics Airway Management Crash Cart Compressions & Documentation. Roles and Designation Tool implemented during education.

Post-intervention: Repeated survey of knowledge and confidence with staff. Comparative team dynamics evaluated with *Mayo High Performance Teamwork Scale* during unit mock codes.

Significance of Findings/Outcomes: Implementation of an evidence-based Role Designation Tool with education improved role delineation among PACU staff. Consistency in understanding assumed role during emergencies improved from 0% role-consistency (0/10 simulated events) to 87.5% role-consistency (7/8 simulated events) ($p < 0.001$).

Implications for perianesthesia nurses and future research: Implementation of a role designation tool in the PACU provides PACU staff with a clear plan for emergencies. This clear plan improves communication team dynamics and comfort among PACU staff during emergencies positively impacting patient outcomes.