

Innovative Guided Clinical Rotations Enhance Student Nurse Experiences in the Peri-Operative Arena

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Students learn IV starts, & interact with patients & family in pre-op



Guided reflection & note taking are encouraged



Students provide direct patient care after skill acquisition in a sim lab



Students are provided AORN study guides to augment learning

INTRODUCTION

This Poster describes innovative experiential clinical rotations for student nurse learners, during eight-week preceptorships, within one perioperative department of a 21 acute care hospital system in N. California.

DESCRIPTION OF TEAM

Academic partners select the students. The clinical program coordinator builds the clinical curriculum and works with facility educators, nursing leadership, surgeons, anesthesia providers, sterile processing staff and preceptors to facilitate the students' clinical experiences.

Preceptors: Trained RNs introduce the students to direct pre-op, intra-op and post-op patient care. Objectives for each area are shared with students and RNs.

Sterile Processing students spend one day in the sterile processing department with content experts

Scrub Rotation students are offered the opportunity to scrub. The goal on day one of scrubbing is "to stay sterile!"

Anesthesia Rotation students spend at least one day with an Anesthesia provider. Student and providers are given talking points based on the anesthesia type:

- General anesthesia
- Monitored anesthesia care
- Regional anesthesia
- Pediatric anesthesia

Educator facilitates student learning and daily assignments with nursing leadership

ASSESSMENT

Students adapt readily to patient care in the pre & postoperative areas but are often overwhelmed, awed & stressed when first entering the operating room (OR).

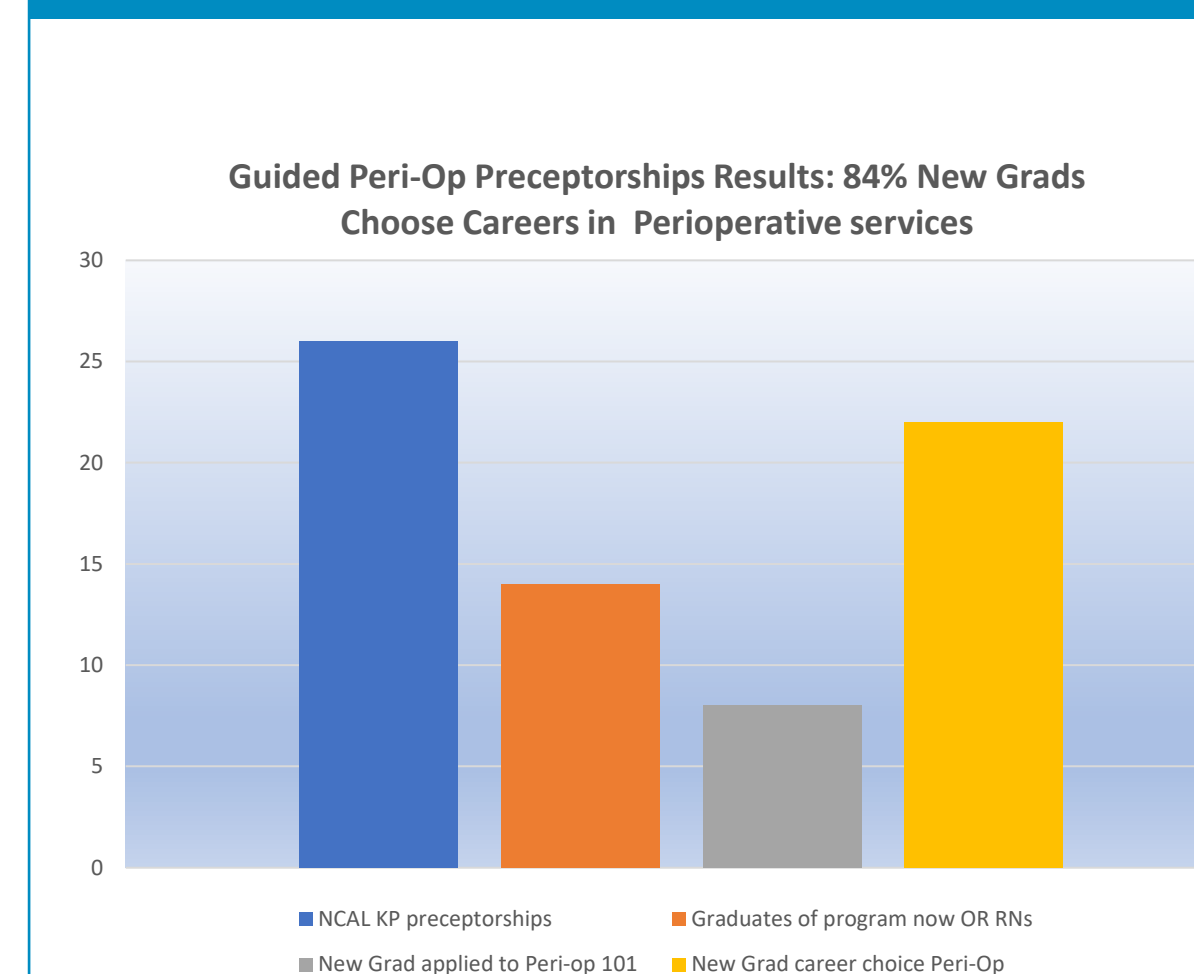
Innovations to reduce student stress include:

- Orientation to patient work-flows before clinicals
- Welcome flyer with student photos & information shared with the teams prior to day one.
- Flipped classroom – appropriate AORN study guides are provided before circulating, scrubbing and other rotations in conjunction with sim labs,
- Student's work with supportive trained preceptors & are expected to identify clinical goals for each day.
- Student's in pre & post op areas focus on the patient & family's lived peri-operative experience
- Clinical assignments with identified preceptors & objectives are shared on Friday for the next week.
- Students follow one or two surgical specialties in the OR to reduce overload.
- Students complete a daily log of cases & complete a weekly case study which is shared in class.

OUTCOME

Career choices of nursing students who complete guided peri-operative preceptorships = n 84%

GUIDED PERI-OP PRECEPTORSHIP RESULTS



OUTCOMES

- Student nurses who express an interest in Peri-operative nursing embrace the opportunities provided by guided peri-op preceptorships
- This program encouraged peri-op nurses, surgical technologists and sterile processing staff to become preceptors. 97 preceptors were trained in 2021.
- 84% of nursing students who completed NCAL Kaiser capstone preceptorships between 2017-2021 pursued, or are pursuing, careers in peri-operative services

IMPLICATIONS FOR PERIOPERATIVE NURSING

- Student nurses can thrive in perioperative services, they gain valuable skills & knowledge & explore the possibilities of a life-long career as an OR RN, when partnered with a supportive preceptor and surgical team.. Guiding adjuncts support the preceptor and student
- Much is published about the OR RN shortage. This program is one small example of what can be done to increase interest in peri-operative nursing
- Without perioperative experience offered during nurse training new nurses look elsewhere for nursing careers.

Student Nurse Reflections



Prior to the Peri-op preceptorship, the most exposure we had was rotations to the OR observing days as well with Med Surg 1, where intra-op nursing was minimized to "a rock concert" & "counting sharps"; there was little understanding provided to us.
T. Pieraldi



The highlights of this program is the program itself. Going over skills that are used in the OR such as donning/doffing, familiarizing us with common equipment, setting up the back table, and giving us a safe space to learn, ask questions, and reflect upon our experiences.
J. Curameng.



I was hired into a nurse residency program at a level 1 trauma center, I was able to join my new team with a confidence that some of my fellow coworkers didn't have... I went through the AORN Periop 101 course and found that ... I already knew the basics and had built an incredible foundation as an OR nurse in my clinical experiences as a student.
A. Sinclair RN