
**Purpose:** To increase nursing confidence, ultimately improving patient outcomes. **Background/Significance:** The veteran population can be more complex than patients in the private sector due to a plethora of acute on chronic conditions. The Portland VA has more than 7 surgical services, admitting pre- and post-surgical patients to the ward. Bedside nurses are expected to care for their Veteran patients’ chronic health issues in combination with new acute issues that come with surgical procedures. In this 26 bed Medical/surgical unit, with multiple pre- and post-operative surgical admissions per day, nurses at any given time may care for a patient who has just had a surgery from any of the 7 surgical specialties. This can be intimidating for new and experienced nurses alike as quick and competent nursing judgement in the face of acute issues can be the difference between positive and negative patient outcomes. **Description:** Looking at the literature it was clear, nursing confidence is vital to improved nursing practice and Physician and RN communication has a direct impact on better patient outcomes. The Unit Based Council on this Med/Surg unit decided to tackle the issue. First, the UBC developed a small questionnaire with a Likert Scale from 1 to 5 addressing how confident the nurses rated themselves (from “not at all confident” to “very confident”) for confidence in surgical procedures, confidence speaking with providers about procedures, and confidence educating their patients about surgical procedures. Of participating RNs (n=18), 56% rated confident in knowledge of surgical procedures, 67% confident in communicating with providers, and 34% confident in educating their patients. The solution: the Unit Based Council created a reference guide of all the most common surgical procedures seen on the ward. The guide included a brief description of each procedure, internet images/photos, post op complications, and nursing management decisions. Residents and Attendings from each surgical service were solicited to proof, edit, and help with narrowing down when to call the provider. The Physicians were excited about the project and happy to help. Once completed, the guide was placed in the Nurse’s station and all nurses were encouraged to view it. **Evaluation and Outcomes:** After two months of promoting the Surgical Specialty Nursing Guide, a similar post-questionnaire was given to nurses. Of participating RNs (n=20), 95% rated confidence in knowledge of surgical procedures, 100% in communicating with providers, and 85% in educating their patients. **Conclusions:** The Surgical Specialty Nursing Guide was a success. Although self-rated confidence is a subjective measure, confidence is such an important piece in nursing care and practice. The Specialty Guide is so informative, and the collaborative effort made by the nurses and physicians really showed. **Presenting Author:** Betsy Hannam, BSN RN, Portland VA Healthcare System, Betsy.Hannam@va.gov