

Discoveries of Distinction

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Student Registered Nurse Anesthetists: The Impact of Structured High Fidelity Simulation on Anesthesia Ready Time

Student registered nurse anesthetists (SRNAs) at a large academic medical center are limited in clinical training experiences due to the subjective observations of local anesthesia departments that SRNAs decrease OR efficiency because they require too much instruction. Utilizing the Iowa Model of Evidenced-Based Practice to Promote Quality Care, the investigator inserted a six-week structured simulation program into the nurse anesthesia curriculum prior to the SRNAs' first clinical rotation. The course promoted basic anesthesia skill proficiency through the assimilation of previously taught and tested skills. Using the calculation of the elapsed anesthesia ready time (ART), the clinical performance of the class of 2014 was compared to the class of 2013. Analysis revealed the mean ART for both groups were similar at 20 minutes with a standard deviation of 10 minutes. The ARTs of approximately 68 percent of general anesthesia cases requiring an endotracheal tube involving

SRNAs were between 10 and 30 minutes. The ARTs from both groups were within the institution's operating norm. In conclusion, structured HFS did not impact the ART of new-to-practice SRNAs. However, the information collected during the implementation of the HFS and the data collection period may be used to develop future avenues to improve the current processes. ■

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Statement of Gratitude

We, as nurses, regardless of discipline, have the opportunity and obligation for the perpetuation of our own profession. I am grateful to the AANA Foundation for its support of CRNA research and grateful for both its sponsorship and the privilege to share my doctoral project with the CRNA community.