

Innovative Education to Promote Teamwork During A Global Pandemic and Staffing Crisis

A Unique Way to Perform Annual Staff Competencies

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Background/Introduction

Abstract:

The overall goal for this educational activity was to incorporate gaming as an innovative way to educate and promote teamwork by reviewing annual competencies with modified sports games: golf, basketball and bowling.

Learning Outcome:

- 100% of learners will report increased knowledge of:
- Three high priority pieces of equipment, instruments or supplies needed for emergent procedures utilizing golf,
 - Surgical instrument recognition of abdominal and vascular specialties utilizing basketball
 - Multidisciplinary roles, equipment, and supplies needed for responding to a malignant hyperthermia crisis and code events by utilizing bowling

Current State:

Our ambulatory staff primarily perform smaller surgical procedures on relatively low acuity patients. One strategy of competencies is to review emergent events in effort to help prepare the staff for unexpected occurrences. The overall goal is to encourage active learning on high risk skills/content to improve outcomes.

Desired State:

The RN and ST will demonstrate an increase in knowledge for the content included in the educational session after participating in course. Competencies have three areas of focus to address educational gaps: preparing for an emergent exploratory laparotomy and emergent tracheostomy, surgical instrument recognition for exploratory laparotomy surgical procedures, and malignant hyperthermia/ code blue roles, equipment and supplies.

References
Carifa, L & Goodwin, H. (2011). Using Games to Provide Interactive Perioperative Education. AORN Journal 94:4. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aorn.2011.01.018>

Rothrock, J. C., & McEwen, D. R. (2018). Alexander's care of the patient in surgery (15th edition.). St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier/Mosby.

AORN. (2022). Perioperative standards and recommended practices. Denver, CO: AORN.

Method: Sports Themed Competencies

High Risk/Low Frequency Topic	Sport	Educational Delivery
Preparedness for emergent procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emergent Conversion from Direct Laryngoscopy (DML) to Tracheostomy• Emergent Conversion from Laparoscopic Salpingectomy to Exploratory Laparotomy	Golf	After teams reviewed the back table set up of the primary procedure, staff were asked to prioritize which equipment, instruments and supplies would needed for each emergent respective scenario. Laminated cards with titles of equipment, instruments and supplies were given to staff members. Each team member “golfed” and puttied into medium sized specimen containers for varying levels of points.
Recognition of Surgical Instruments for Emergent Open Procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abdominal Specials tray• Peripheral Vascular Set (PVS)	Basketball	Team members were given the opportunity to inspect instruments together. After deliberation, each member of the team was asked to match the appropriate label with the unfamiliar instrument. For each instrument correctly identified, team members were then given the opportunity earn a point by shooting a basket. Each instrument was then reviewed with the group.
Malignant Hyperthermia & Code Blue Responsiveness <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of roles and responsibilities	Bowling	Using a Family Feud format for providing team members questions, the team that answered the question correctly bowled for points. The bowling pins were empty repurposed liter irrigation bottles.



Results/Lessons Learned

Results:

The ambulatory staff evaluated the education session overwhelmingly positive with a few comments stating:

- “Fun & Informative”
- “Interactive and kept my attention the whole time”
- “A fun way to learn”
- “Fun activities to keep us engaged while learning important topics”
- “Can we do this every week for staff in-service?”

Lessons Learned:

- By leveraging the knowledge and expertise of both staff roles in the operating room (nurses and surgical technologists), we were able to tangibly see and feel the collaboration required to perform each sport
- The pandemic had a huge impact on this unit who primarily performs elective procedures and offering their education in a fun, interactive and team-promoting way was a boost to the overall unit morale
- Leadership engagement is **essential** for success and was present during the planning, implementing, and evaluation phases of competencies
- Collaboration within the perioperative education team promoted a positive experience for the ambulatory staff and within the team itself