Knowledge and Adult Learning Strategies for Implementing Components of an Intraoperative Bundle to Reduce Surgical Site Infections

Developing a robust perioperative workforce.

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What are the significances of this initiative?

1. Provides a strategy for nursing management that directly relates to practice improvement.

2. Implementation of standardized, evidence-based intervention to teach operating room staff to prevent infections translate to reduced costs and better patient outcomes.
How did we know improvement was needed?

A gap exists between research and practice

Lack of uniform knowledge

The initiative addressed the gap

The Agreement uses Adult Learning Principles
What did we try to accomplish?

Improve the knowledge base of Operating Room Staff regarding the use of an intraoperative bundle to reduce surgical site infection, through experiential learning strategies.
What was our strategy to improve knowledge?
Utilize David Kolb’s Experiential Learning Cycle to teach the components.

- **DO IT.**
- **What?**
  - What happened?
  - What were the results?
- **Now What?**
  - DO IT.
  - What will I do differently next time?
- **So What?**
  - What do these results imply?
  - How did I influence the outcome?
The 4 A’s of Experiential Learning Cycle

1. **Activity:**
   Concrete experience on new techniques such as using separate instruments during fascia and skin closure, etc.

2. **Analysis:**
   Reflective observation on the experience; what went wrong, what went right, and how things could be done better.

3. **Abstraction:**
   Conceptualization of learning from experience and tying it up to evidences.

4. **Application:**
   Active experimentation through planning and implementing learning as a new way of doing things.
How did we know improvement was made?

Pre-test measured existing knowledge before the educational module.

Post-test measured knowledge after the educational module.

Significant improvement of knowledge was observed using paired t-test statistical instrument.
Implications of this initiative to Perioperative Nursing

Strategy is rolled out from gynecology surgery into other surgery service lines such as colorectal surgery, urology, and general surgery.

Fully utilizing Experiential Learning Cycle as a strategy significantly improved knowledge of the bundle.