

# Welcome to your PACU Co-op Experience

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## Introduction/Problem

- PACU RNs provide care for many different types of patients, from outpatients to those requiring ICU level of care. Nursing Co-op Students who are hired to work in the PACU spend six months in this Perianesthesia setting, where they have an opportunity to increase their knowledge and develop a variety of nursing skills. Previous unstructured orientations led to variations in the Nursing Co-op student's competence, and Perianesthesia Nurses verbalized uncertainty as to the students' abilities to assist with patient care. Nursing Co-op students also expressed frustration if they were not able to support the RN caring for PACU patients. An opportunity to enhance the orientation and PACU experience for the Nursing Co-op students was seen as a method to improve the student's overall nursing education.

## The Interventions

- A small group met to review and discuss current orientation, with input from Nursing Co-op students.
- Learning objectives for the Nursing Co-op student were established.
- Nursing Co-op role and responsibilities reviewed and revised.
- With input from RN staff, a skills checklist was developed.
- Nursing Co-op student must *review, observe, practice* and be *signed off* by a PACU RN *three times* before student is able to perform independently.
- Students have a binder with updated educational information and are responsible to maintain their checklists.
- Nursing Co-op **Tiers of Success** Checklist implemented to enable students to begin with basic skills, and subsequently build on these skills to perform more advanced skills.

## Results/Progress to Date

### Aim/Goal

- The aim of this project was to develop an individualized, structured orientation program for the Nursing Co-op students who spend six months in the PACU. The program is designed to develop the student's critical thinking and communication skills as they work to improve their nursing skills.

### The Team

- Marianne McAuliffe, RN, MSN, Unit Educator, PACU
- Linda Aulenbach, RN, BSN, West PACU
- Amy Baut, RN, BSN, West PACU

### Tier 1

- Patient Safety
- Equipment
- Stocking
- Patient Admission Process

### Tier 2

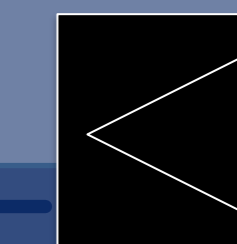
- Glucometer
- EKG
- Respiratory
- Tubes, Drains

### Tier 3

- Phlebotomy
- Foley
- Invasive lines
- Desk duties

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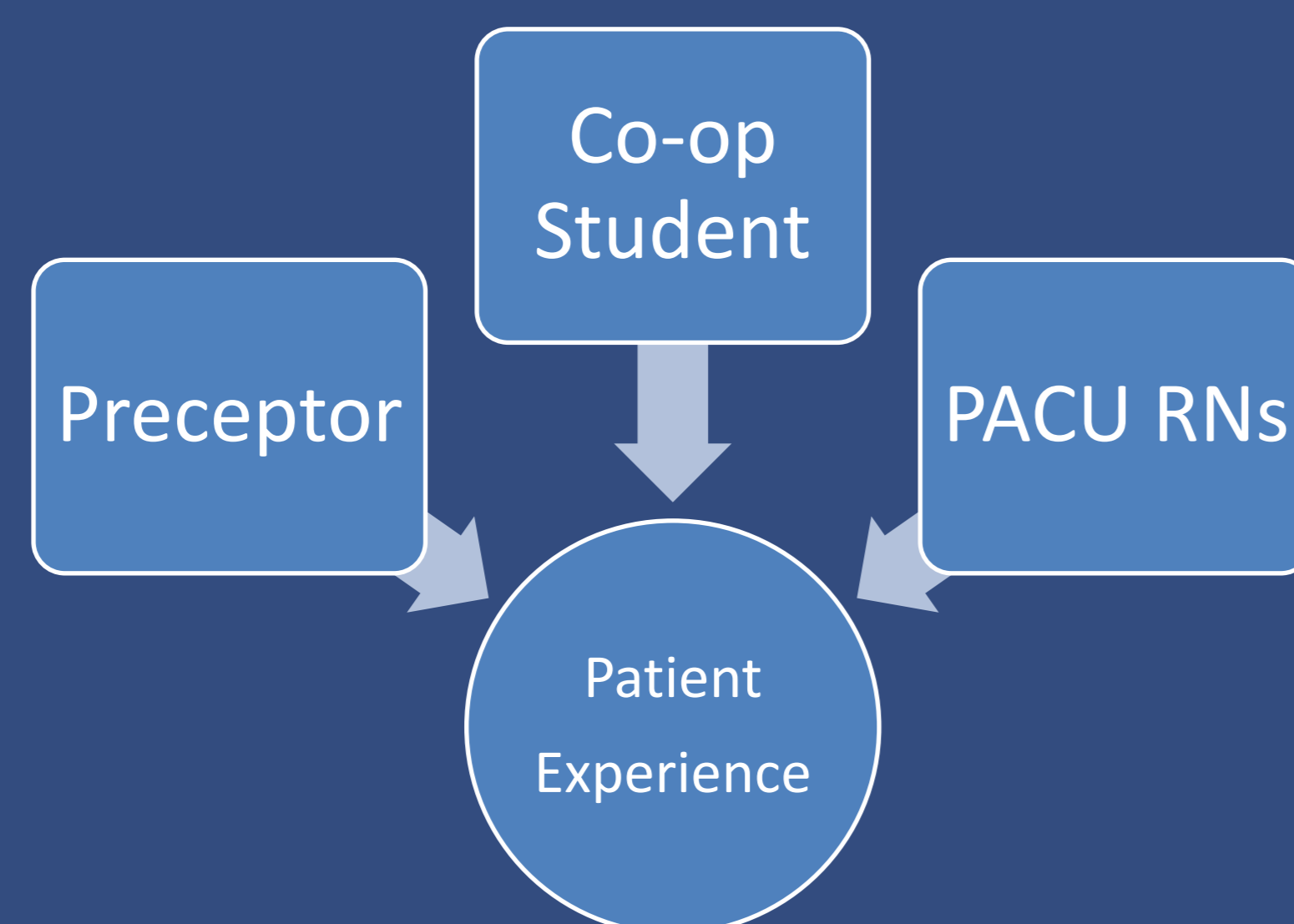
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## More Results/Progress to Date

Tier One	Review	Observe	Practice	Sign off	Sign off	Sign off
Admission of Patients: Assists RN	√ 3/2/18	3/2/18	3/2/18	3/2/18 M.S.M.	3/4/18 A.B.	
Universal Precautions – hand hygiene & PPE	√ 3/2/18	3/2/18	3/2/18			
Plugs in bed, replaced headboard	√ 3/2/18					
Places O2 sat monitor on	√ 3/2/18					
Applies monitor leads – review lead placement	√ 3/2/18					

Example of Tier 1 skills checklist



Nursing Co-op student orientation process reflects BIDMC's commitment to the Patient Experience

### Quotes from Nursing Co-op Students –

- “ I like that I have a consistent preceptor that I can go to with any questions or concerns.”
- “The tiers were a good way to learn. I feel like I have a good foundation now”
- “I have learned so much over the last 6 months. I know I'll be comfortable when I go back to clinical.”
- “The nurses all looked out for me, and made me feel like I was part of the team. They showed me a lot”
- “ I really felt like I helped the patients. I loved this experience”

## Lessons Learned

- A structured orientation program tailored for Nursing Co-op students working in the PACU is an important addition to the student's overall nursing education.
- PACU RNs are invested in developing and mentoring Nursing Co-op students.
- Nursing Co-op students have expressed positive feedback to the orientation program.

## Next Steps

- Orientation program, originally developed in the West Campus PACU, is currently being utilized in the East Campus PACUs.
- Continue to review and revise program, with input from RNs and students.
- Collaboration with other units to develop similar orientation programs.

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