Introduction

Perioperative staff members at our Children's Hospital had the unique opportunity to move into new operating rooms for pediatric patients. The project was collectively led by the nurse educator, hospital administrative staff, project managers, pediatric OR nurses, PACU nurses, anesthesiologists, surgeons, and other core pediatric personnel. The goal was efficient orientation of staff based on pediatric surgical needs while minimizing disruption in the surgical schedule.

Design

To determine the focus of the training, we
▪ consulted regulatory agencies
▪ considered the needs of pediatric surgical patients
▪ identified staff requests for education
▪ consulted stakeholders (fire marshals, and equipment and technology vendors)

Staff were trained in small groups over the course of three months on necessary subjects such as fire safety, child abduction, active shooter response, and more. The modality of teaching was determined after thoughtful consideration of the needs of the learners and the concepts involved.

Summary

Over 95% of staff were oriented to the new OR and PACU environment before the first day of cases. The following represents the teaching categorized by modality.

SIMULATION SESSIONS
▪ Pediatric code blue and malignant hyperthermia drill
▪ Inpatient and outpatient flow (how does the patient get from floor to OR; from waiting room to pre-op area to OR?)

TOUR AND VERBAL INSTRUCTION
▪ Child abduction (Code Rainbow) protocol
▪ Active shooter protocol
▪ Emergency and life safety features in the OR department
▪ Clean and dirty instrument workflows

HANDS-ON DEMONSTRATION
▪ Video integration and boom technology in the OR
▪ New OR beds and patient cribs
▪ New electrosurgical units and other equipment
▪ Personal protective equipment for airborne precautions

Lessons Learned

▪ Training involving over 100 staff members is a large undertaking and requires collaboration across the disciplines
▪ As processes and workflows evolve, staff must be updated and sometimes re-trained
▪ Moving to a new work environment can be overwhelming. Training refreshers may be helpful to reinforce learning.

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