

Background

- Designed to provide dedicated education for new to practice nurses on orientation in the Cardiac Center.
- Curriculum contains staged content from basic physiology and ICU concepts to complex defects and mechanical circulatory support.
- The program is 8 weeks with two 1-hour didactic sessions per week.
- A follow up case study or simulation is then provided as application to implement critical thinking skills.
- All content is provided by a different member of the multidisciplinary care team (APP, Physician, RN, CNS) to highlight the inter professional partnership and provide perspective from multiple areas.

Objectives

- Provide a solid foundation for individual success and improved patient care across the Cardiac Center.
- Designed to enhance communication and collaboration between the inter professional team.
- Intent to be inclusive to ensure uniform education and preparation.

Methods

- Pre and posttest evaluations utilized each week.
- Likert scale to evaluate relevance of material to nursing role and application of knowledge.
- Anonymous surveys to collect experiential data to make changes, improvements, and gauge satisfaction
- Transfer tests (post test) sent out to all learners 3-6 months upon completion of the course to evaluate knowledge retention

Cardiac Center Education Days: An Inter Professional Approach to Nursing Orientation Michelle Pileggi, MSN, Jenna Heichel, CRNP & Meryl Cohen, MD

Curriculum Sample

Week	Topics	Methods
1	 Normal cardiac anatomy & physiology, conduction, hemodynamics Vasoactives, anesthestics, emergency medications 	DidacticSimulation
2	 Left to Right Shunts (ASD, VSD, PDA, AP window, Truncus Arteriosus) Respiratory (ABGs, mechanical ventilation, CXR interpretation 	 Didactic Simulation Case study
3	 Transposition of the Great Arteries Tetrology of Fallot 	 Didactic Case study/application
4	 TAPVR, DORV, PA/IVS Arrhythmias & EKG basics 	 Didactic Case study/application Simulation
5	 Left sided obstructive lesions HLHS & Norwood 	 Didactic Case study Simulation
6	 Bidirectional Glenn Fontan completion 	 Didactic Case study
7	 Pulmonary Hypertension Acquired heart disease 	DidacticCase study
8	 Lymphatic disease Harm prevention Review game 	DidacticHands on



Results

4 cohorts have completed the program (n=75) Overall Pre/Post test:

- Avg pretest score: 57%
- Avg posttest score: 77%
- % change: 35% increase in pretest to post test



Likert Evaluation (n=75)

- 100% of the time nurses found the material relevant to their area of practice
- 100% of nurses will apply knowledge learned to their area of practice.







Conclusion

- Didactic education and application is a critical aspect of the orientation process and development of nurses new to practice, especially in a specialized setting.
- An increase in retention of knowledge and comprehension based on pretest and post test scores
- 35% increase overall in pretest vs. post test
- Nurses reported 100% of the time the material was both relevant and applicable to their role.
- Transfer evaluations were sent to all previous learners >3 months after attending. The scores for the evaluation will be compared to the scores of the post-test to demonstrate retention of knowledge over a period after attending.