

Creating Healthy Work Environments 2019

Invasive Cardiology BLS/ACLS Resuscitation Quality Improvement (RQI)

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Background of the Problem

With approximately 80 staff in our department renewing BLS and ACLS annually is costly and taking time away from the cardiac cath lab schedule traveling due to find an available class; many times taking an entire day off for renewals, which left unit shortages. There were numerous BLS/ACLS expired cards due to scheduling problems, which required a two-day certification class.

Staff were disgruntled on the inability to schedule renewal classes citing lack of easily accessible classes as one reason for this. Our goal was to improve the BLS/ACLS re-certification compliance by providing the learning experience in an easily accessible location where staff can participate in the megacode in a familiar hospital-setting and enhance staff's hands-on learning of the megacode.

Literature Review

American Heart Association (AHA) RQI Program shows better student performance leads to better patient outcomes and Brennen, et al (2016) shows reinforcement of skills, use of real-time feedback, and debriefing assists students to retain skills and remain competent. Research shows class participants should have adequate hands-on practice in real-world environments on a hospital bed focusing on their psychomotor skills for successful course completion and use of feedback and debriefing assists students to retain skills and remain competent. It has also been shown that high fidelity simulation (HFS) significantly improved student's knowledge and psychomotor skills.

Objectives/Purpose

Our purpose is to provide an alternative way to schedule renewal BLS/ACLS classes for our employees making it easier to attend monthly BLS/ACLS classes in the department, requiring less staff inconvenience, and improving attendance. The overall objectives are:

- Decrease frustration scheduling a BLS/ACLS class
- Provide advance notice of a scheduled class
- Minimal unit disruption
- Adequate time allowed to practice skills
- Feeling competent with BLS/ACLS skills
- Greater participation in a relaxed atmosphere
- No expired BLS/ACLS cards
- Team-based learning

Methods

Caregivers focused on education specifically for the BLS/ACLS intradepartmental experienced provider renewal program resulted in department discussion wanting to create a program to reduce the following:

- Taking time away from the cath lab patient schedule
- Travel time needed to find class space
- An entire day needed away from patient care

- Expired cards requiring a two day class
- Staffing shortages in the department

This resulted in the department formation of the combined BLS/ACLS renewal class consisting of a BLS/ACLS class held monthly with a survey detailing student response to ease of scheduling and competency of performance. Each month six staff members are scheduled to attend based on expiration of BLS/ACLS certification; staff still have the option of taking an enterprise-based class. We offer the BLS only class twice annually as well for those staff not ACLS certified and have no issues with expired cards to date.

Outcomes

We are in the process of measuring post-intervention data after delivering classes in January, February, March, April, and June this year although all favorable with students indicating feeling competent performing BLS/ACLS protocols and having adequate time practicing skills learned also detailing:

- ease of scheduling
- competency of performance
- class rating on a 1-5 scale for overall best class compared to other classes taken

Conclusion

Providing alternative scheduling for renewals may enhance attendance and improve overall compliance noting that compliance improves when courses are easily accessible, thus it may be important to consider having more decentralized locations for mandatory courses that staff is expected to complete yearly. In our experience, improving accessibility has improved compliance.

Title:

Invasive Cardiology BLS/ACLS Resuscitation Quality Improvement (RQI)

Keywords:

ACLS Renewal, ACLS/BLS and Megacode

References:

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Abstract Summary:

There were numerous expired BLS/ACLS cards due to scheduling problems. Staff cited lack of easily accessible classes as one reason. Our goal was to improve BLS/ACLS re-certification compliance by providing a learning experience in an easily accessible location where staff can participate in megacode in a familiar hospital-setting.

Content Outline:

- **Background of the Problem: Department renewing BLS and ACLS annually is costly and taking time away from the cardiac cath lab schedule resulting in expired cards**
- **Literature Review:** American Heart Association (AHA) shows better student performance leads to better patient outcomes. No research was found explaining how to improve attendance through scheduling options.
- **Objectives/Purpose:** Provide an alternative way to schedule BLS/ACLS renewal classes.
- **Methods:** We offer the BLS only class twice annually as well for those staff not ACLS certified and have no issues with expired cards to date.
- **Outcomes:** This is an ongoing project
- **Conclusion:** Providing alternative scheduling for renewals may enhance attendance and improve overall compliance

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Professional Experience: •Retrospective research study for presentation at Annual Research Conference, 2018 - How Successful is Atrial Fibrillation (AF) Ablation? •Research project in for submission to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for dissemination, 2017 - How Successful is Atrial Fibrillation (AF) Ablation? •Poster presentation at Shared Governance, 2016 - Stop, HUSH, Sleep; a quality improvement project based on HCAHPS scores to improve quiet at night (QAN) in the Cardiac Post Procedure Unit •Retrospective research study presented at Annual Research Conference, 2016 - The Relationship of Pre-Filling Patient Prescriptions on Discharge with Patient Medication Adherence •Nursing Research Fund Literature Review (NURF Lit) award from the Nursing Institute Office of Research & Innovation for a research project and poster presentation at Shared Governance Day - November 2014

Author Summary: •Won the Robert and Lorraine Warren Sr. Nursing Award – given to the nurse displaying the “spirit of compassionate caring” while working as mentor to the next generation of nurses; serving as a role model by providing care characterized by dignity, concern, kindness & respect – May 2017 •Crain’s Cleveland Business Health Care Hero Nomination - honoring those dedicating service in NE Ohio’s healthcare sector, taking into account leadership, accomplishments and community service – May 2015

