

# Infusing Oncology in a Perioperative Nurse Residency Program



The James



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## Introduction

Nurse Residency Programs (NRP) have been utilized to successfully onboard graduate nurses for many years.

A perioperative specific NRP did not exist in the organization.

The current NRP did not fully meet the unique needs of the perioperative department for the new graduate nurse.



## Purpose

A Perioperative Oncology NRP was developed for graduate nurses as well as for nurses without previous perioperative experience.

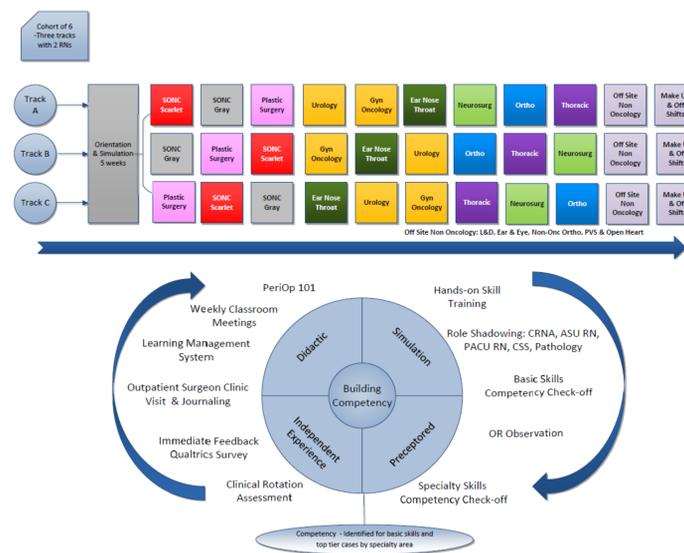
The purpose of the program was to not only orient the nurse to perioperative patient care, but to incorporate oncology.

The program focused on the oncology continuum of care, from diagnosis through survivorship or end of life care.

## Implementation

The Perioperative Oncology NRP consisted of:

1. Periop 101 Course (didactic & skills simulations)
  1. Monthly Surgical Rotations & Service Prep: (General Surgery, Plastic, GYN, GU, Head & Neck, Neuro, Thoracic, and Orthopedic)
    - National Cancer Institute readings [www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov)
    - Physician lectures (video recordings)
    - Technology training aids
    - Cohort service debrief
    - Competency evaluation
2. Outpatient Oncology Clinic Visits for each surgical service rotation
  - Patient care continuum (diagnosis, pre-operative care, post-operative care, follow up care & end of life care)
  - Physician relationship development
3. Monthly Resident Class
  - Radiation Therapy (brachytherapy, external beam radiation)
  - Hematologic Oncology (Leukemia, Lymphoma & Multiple myeloma) treatments
    - Chemotherapy
    - Biotherapy
  - End of Life Conference
4. Evidence-Based Practice Project & Presentation
5. Graduation & Celebration

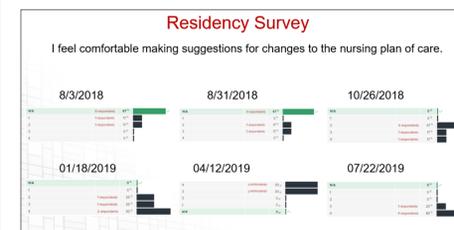
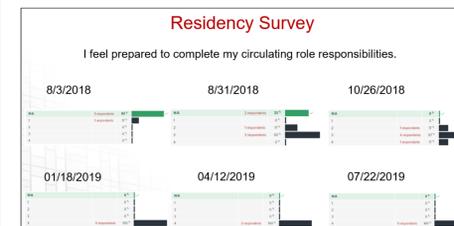


## Outcomes

- The verbal feedback from the residents, staff, leadership and physicians was overwhelmingly positive.
- The staff felt the residents were well prepared and knowledgeable.
- In regular self-evaluations, the residents demonstrated an improvement in confidence and clinical knowledge
- This program led to a successful integration of five out of six graduate nurses into a highly specialized Oncology Operating Room.

### Residency Survey Scale

- N/A  
1 = Strongly Disagree  
2 = Disagree  
3 = Agree  
4 = Strongly Agree



### Testimonials from Nurse Residents:

- "I liked seeing the surgeon talking with the patient and listening to them."
- "I liked watching a new patient visit, I learned about the disease."
- "I learned so much more about that service!"
- "I got to see the physician pull up all of the tests and explain to the patient why they thought it was that type of cancer."
- "It was interesting to observe the planning of the chemotherapy and radiation treatments."

## References

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