

Ohio Valley General Hospital Uses PeriOp Education Services to Help Fill Perioperative Nurse Vacancies

PITTSBURGH'S

**OHIO VALLEY
GENERAL HOSPITAL**

CHALLENGE

With several recent vacancies among its perioperative nursing staff and no educator on staff, Ohio Valley General Hospital (OVGH) sought a solution to train nurses to fill the positions.

SOLUTION

OVGH found candidates from their nursing school wanted to pursue perioperative nursing careers and then turned to PeriOptimum's Education Services to help train the students and create preceptors within the OVGH staff to supervise the training.

RESULTS

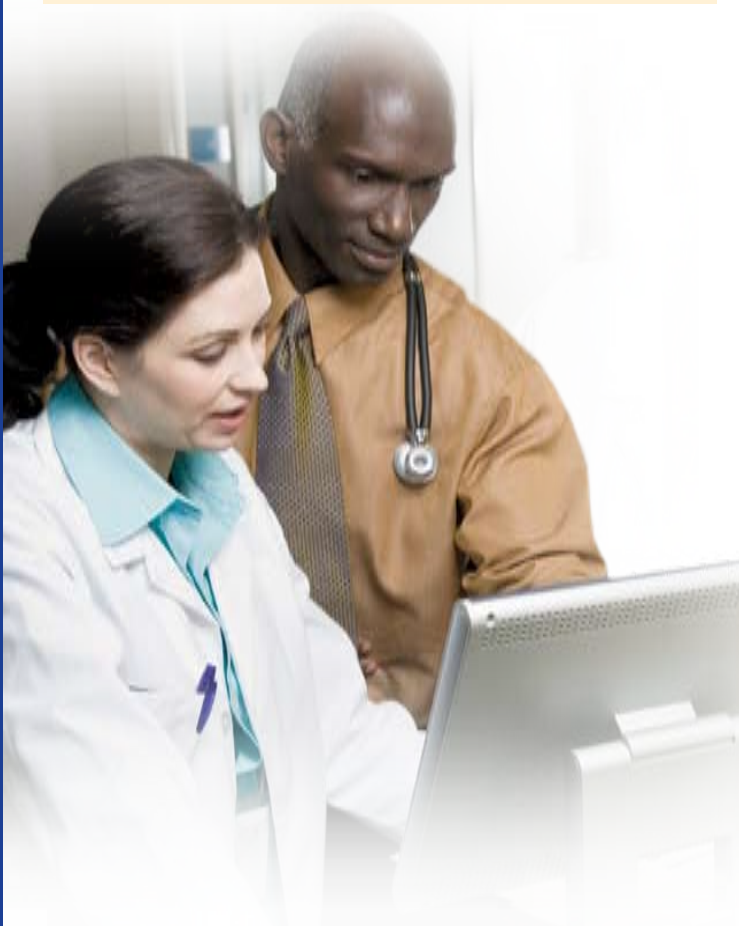
In only five months, three of the candidates completed the education program and passed the AORN PeriOp 101 program, enabling them to begin working as a circulator in the operating room (OR).

OVGH is a 119-bed not-for-profit hospital affiliated with Quorum Health Resources, Inc. Located near Pittsburgh in Kennedy Township; OVGH has nearly 300 physicians in 36 medical specialties and offers a full range of advanced diagnostic tools and treatments. For OVGH, turning to PeriOptimum for help was a logical choice, since the hospital had more than three years of history of working with PeriOptimum on a consulting basis to optimize its surgical services department.

PeriOptimum's PeriOp Education Services is a program that enables hospitals without a full-time educator to quickly train their new recruits on 26 critical topics and orients them on the hospital's perioperative department. PeriOptimum's Educators are experienced OR nurses who are licensed users of the AORN's Periop 101: A Core Curriculum program, which provides the comprehensive theories needed for new recruits to work as a circulator in the OR.

PeriOptimum began its PeriOp Education Services program at OVGH in September 2006, and completed the training in February 2007. The PeriOptimum educator conducted a review and administered the AORN final exam, which resulted in a 100% pass rate. The program consists of four weeks of classroom-based training in perioperative theory combined with clinical focus opportunities. Upon completion of the four-week class work period, the nurses are assigned a PeriOptimum-trained preceptor that is on the hospital staff. The preceptors coach the students for an additional four months of on-the-job training. PeriOptimum then meets every other week with students, preceptors, and management to evaluate progress and set goals.

"Optimizing the workflow in our ORs, which includes filling perioperative nurse vacancies, is an important part of our strategic mission, especially since we expanded our hospital last year and added an additional OR," said Mr. William Provenzano, President. "We've been working successfully with PeriOptimum for more than two years to optimize our ORs, so we naturally turned to them for help with designing a program to train our perioperative nurses."



“Most nursing schools offer very little perioperative training, so the PeriOp Education program is an ideal way to give nurses the foundation they need to work in the OR,” said Sandy Mamula, director of Surgical Services at OVGH. “The class time spent on theory is valuable for students and the preceptors because it explains the principles behind the work that perioperative nurses do a daily basis. I’ve found that even experienced nurses who were trained on the job – while they may know what to do in specific situations – don’t always know the theories behind why they should take those steps. The class work helps to fill in those gaps.”

PeriOptimum’s Donna Gallagher, RN, BSN, CNOR, CST, spearheaded the OVGH training. “The combination of theory and tactile learning was most helpful,” said Laverne Conley, RN, program graduate. “Donna possesses the ability to thoroughly evaluate a person’s learning ability and individual needs. I appreciated her ability to flex the program based on the learning styles and needs of students.”

With the industry’s shortage of experienced perioperative nurses, the PeriOp Education program provided OVGH with a cost-effective alternative to fill its staff vacancies. “Surgery has gotten so technical that most hospitals only want to hire experienced nurses, but they are difficult to find, yet at the same time hospitals don’t always have the time to train students,” Ms. Mamula said. “PeriOptimum provided us with a solution to this problem.”

One aspect of the program that Ms. Mamula particularly found valuable was the ability of the PeriOptimum trainer to coach the surgeons on how to work with the students. “The extensive

experience of PeriOptimum’s Donna Gallagher enabled her to quickly earn the respect and trust of the surgeons, so they listened to her suggestions on how to cultivate the learning of the students. That alone was worth the price of the program,” Ms. Mamula said.

OVGH would consider using the PeriOp Education program again in the future,

according to Ms. Mamula, and the students also feel that the program was of value to them. “As a new graduate without any experience in the OR, I found this course very helpful. It taught me all the basics that I can now build upon,” said Ivonne Markish, RN, program graduate.



Give us a call today!

Let us show you how we can help you increase your efficiency and real-time results.

866.PERIOP1 (866.737.4661)



24 S. Eighteenth Street, 2nd Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

www.perioptimum.com