

Nicolette Guerrero, FULD Fellow Cohort II



The Weinberg and Zayed operating rooms (ORs), Johns Hopkins Hospital, are in the early developmental phase of implementing a pilot study on specialty-based OR teams. This project was mentored by Brenda Nack, Acting Director, and Mary-Grace Hensell, Nurse Manager, Weinberg ORs. The goal is to improve intraoperative patient outcomes by restructuring the OR intraoperative team with consistent members: circulating nurses, surgical technicians, anesthesiologists and surgeons. My work began by observing different surgical procedures noting the different interactions and cultures within teams. Additionally, I searched and reviewed research articles related to the topic and drafted a pre-intervention survey. Survey results will be used to compare pre and post-implementation of the pilot team.

I am a BSN candidate at Johns Hopkins School of Nursing for December 2013. In 2012, I graduated from the University of Florida with a B.S. in Health Education and Behavior. During my undergraduate studies I worked as a nursing assistant at Shands Hospital in Gainesville, Florida. I then coordinated a peer program for HIV positive women in rural Florida through an NGO, the Rural Women's Health Project. I have worked internationally with Doctors Without Borders and interned at the School of Public Health in Universidad San Francisco de Quito.

During these experiences I became keenly aware of the important role health care providers play in quality and safety in patient care. I also know that taking a proactive approach in coordinating information and communicating effectively with everyone involved in the patient's care can improve clinical outcomes. Research and evidence based information is vital to implement in order to prevent medical errors or poor patient outcomes.

After my BSN program my goal is to practice my new nursing career in the hospital setting where I can also continue to begin a Quality Improvement project on the unit. After gaining nursing experience, my goal is to obtain a Doctorate in Nursing Practice and become a Family Nurse Practitioner. With the two goals achieved, I plan to implement and change certain practices so that patient outcomes can be improved in a primary care setting.