Educate critical care nurses to insert intraosseous (IO) devices during Code Blue and Rapid Response situations to:

- improve patient care by ensuring timely establishment of intravascular access
- eliminate delays in the administration of life-supporting treatments

**Background**

Hospitalized patients who do not have intravenous access are at risk for treatment delays during emergencies. Critical care nurses responding to Cardiac Arrests and Rapid Response situations noted:

- patients often lacked adequate intravenous access
- a responding LIP skilled in IO insertion was not consistent
- a critical care nurse responder is a consistent member of the emergency response team

**Purpose**

**Methods**

- Nurse Executive Board and Critical Care Committee support for the IO project
- Education of all critical care nurses at Annual Competency Day
- Staff nurse volunteers as IO insertion champions
- Additional education sessions including theory and psychomotor sessions to insert IO devices

**Results**

Over 22 intraosseous devices have been successfully inserted.

A chart review of these insertions demonstrates that:

- insertion success rate by critical care nurses on the first attempt at IO access was 100%
- decreased time to first intravenous medication administration with IO access

**Conclusions**

Education of critical care nurse responders allows a consistent, knowledgeable responder to establish intravascular access during Code Blue & Rapid Response situations.

Based on success rates for IO insertions, IO insertion kits have been placed on all medical-surgical units.

**Next Steps**

- Utilize the new electronic health record to develop a formalized process for review of IO insertion data to include:
  - reason for event
  - outcome of event
- Continue annual intraosseous insertion competency for all critical care nurses

**Reference**