Nurse Led Collaboration and Innovation:  
Relieving In-Patient Bed Shortage by Creating an Extended Recovery Unit (ERU)  
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Background
- Increasing capacity challenges caused by COVID19 pandemic.
- As part of a capacity management plan, a Magnet-designated 171-bed community teaching hospital prepared to create an Extended Recovery Unit (ERU) for post-surgical patients.
- Perianesthesia staff engaged to support developing new structure.

Objective
- Create an ERU that provides high-quality, efficient care to surgical patients who meet the criteria for an expedited discharge home the morning after surgery.
- To develop a nursing pathway to guide the care of ERU patients while maintaining high patient experience scores.

Outcomes
- In the first 3 months, the ERU reduced length of stay for its patient population by ≈6 hours.
- Average discharge time 9:25am with no OR holds caused by ERU.
- Patients report high level of satisfaction.

Implications
- Implementing an ERU with perianesthesia nurses at the helm can provide post-op patients with high-quality care, and efficient early discharge home while relieving some of the pressures of bed shortages throughout the hospital.

Next Steps
- Continue to develop and expand the ERU in preparation for a future larger dedicated space.

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