**Unit Practice Council**

**July 10, 2012**

**Mom/Baby Unit**

**Chair:** Brenda Karlstrum, RNc

**Attendees:** Latasha Myrieckes, RN, Diane Temple, RN, and Karen VanHorn, RN

(Note: The day and time of our meetings was changed based on feedback from staff. Some staff members have committed to participate but were unavailable for this meeting due to vacations and the time change.

**Nurse Practice Council** **updates** included the new privacy code, sedation scale and preceptor policy. A handout was provided defining peer reviews and the basic concept and purpose of peer review was discussed. The group was unclear about the differences between audits and peer reviews. The chair will research this for next meeting. With a better understanding of the process, the group will discuss potential peer-review projects in August.

Breast Pump Discussion on page 2

**Unit Practice Council**

Huddles

The shift-change huddles have just begun. It is too early to determine if the process is working or if modifications need to be made. We will check in with staff and charge nurses and reassess in August.

Monthly Education

Since the recommendations that the UPC makes are based on evidence-based research, the group agreed to read a pre-selected research paper or an article each month and discuss it at UPC the following month. The first article was an essay on Relationship-Based Care and was distributed to attendees.

Communications

The group discussed the need for better communication with staff about UPC. Ways to get current information to/from staff were discussed. The group felt that emailing meeting minutes was not effective since staff receives so many emails that they are easily overlooked. The UPC minutes in the notebook in the lounge are easily missed by staff. One suggestion was that a staff member on each shift could update staff members individually. A member who had previous experience on a UPC at another hospital stated that the one-to-one discussion with staff was an effective method to get information to and from staff at that facility.

Staff members will get a meeting reminder via email. The group is also collecting personal emails if staff would like meeting reminders via personal email. The need to have better cohesiveness with L&D and NICU was brought up. One suggestion to improve communication between units was to have periodic meetings to update each other on new procedures or equipment that might be if interest to the other units. We will continue to explore this idea.

Subcommittees and collaboration with other committees

The group shared their thought on how they would like this UPC to operate. The group agreed that subcommittees to work on specific projects would be ideal but recognized that attendance needs to increase to have enough staff to reach this goal. It was noted that the staff will attend, if the topics are relevant and important to their nursing practice. The group felt that another goal would be to include representatives from other groups/committees such as Unit Secretary/CNA, Charge Nurse, Sunshine Committee, Nursery, etc.

Improvements/ideas/goals

A list of improvements/ideas/goals (Attachment 1) that were submitted in June by staff members were provided to attendees. Two topics that were the group felt were priorities were:

Self-scheduling was brought up as important for staff satisfaction and retention which results in more competent/experienced nurses and better patient care. A committee to working on self-scheduling will be formed at the August meeting. It was noted that it would be helpful if one or more of the current schedulers are involved in this process.

Other issues that attendees wanted to work on were exploring incentives in lieu of time and a half when called back on a scheduled work day (ie, lunch ticket) and revisiting nursery staffing patterns and competency in flex role.

The chained breast pumps were discussed at length. The concerns expressed were that every room did not have a breast pump and is was difficult to find a pump for the rooms without them, the frustration of a pump being in room with a bottle-feeding mom or a breastfeeding mom that doesn’t need to pump, and the difficulty navigating pumps that are chained to the wall in a good position for the patient to comfortably pumping. It is our understanding that the Lactation team is working on this. Pat Tetterson had previously stated that the team had worked hard on the changes and she was committed to trialing this for another 30 days. The UPC will offer their input, if requested. Otherwise, this topic will be reassessed at the August meeting.

The chair thanked attendees for their attendance and participation. Meetings will be in the Mom/Baby Conference Room from 1300-1430 on the second Tuesday of the month.

UPC dates through 2012 will be:

August 14

September 11

October 9

November 13

December 11

Submitted by Brenda Karlstrum, Chair