

Innovation

“We’ve opted to go above and beyond on protection with hydration,” said Southard.

The initiative is a focus of quality improvement, as well as a master’s degree project being performed by Rick Kidd, BSN, RN, CCRN. Kidd is implementing a change of practice through the development of a universal protocol preventing injury during Cath procedures by employing a point system. This system will help identify patient populations with high risk factors and whether the low-osmolar or iso-osmolar contrast is more appropriate. While the protocol has already been embraced, Kidd plans on formalizing this evidence-based practice and submitting to the Institutional Review Board in 2014.

As research is performed and an algorithm is formulated, Kidd will likely discover generalizations that extend beyond cardiac patients. He plans on sharing this knowledge to increase awareness across the hospital since it may be applicable to other patient populations exposed to contrast.

“That’s the beauty of working at a large hospital, you can truly make a drop in the pond that ripples all the way to the shore,” said Kidd.

Meduflex Changes Perception of Staffing Pools

Since its inception in early 2010, MUSC has hired over 150 new graduate nurses for Meduflex, an organizational float pool for inpatient and outpatient departments. This innovative program was led by Steve Schaer, MS, BS, RN, and Linda Foster, MHA, BSN, RN, and designed to increase the number of nurses available in MUSC’s float pool and decrease the use of agency and travelers. The program has been highly successful and changed the perception that staffing pools need to be comprised of experienced nurses. New graduates are highly adaptable, competent practitioners who are capable of working on multiple units in a large academic medical center with mentoring and support.

“I joined Meduflex in April 2013 and have been so happy with my decision,” said Sarah Bowles, ADN, RN. “I love being able to experience different units in the hospital, and I feel that I have become more well-rounded because of this program. While I am not an expert in any particular area, I have gained knowledge about each specialty and enjoy the variety that comes with Meduflex. My advice to new graduates considering Meduflex is to not be intimidated by the prospect of floating around the hospital. I never thought I would want to float, but the training that Meduflex provides is more than adequate. I absolutely love going to a different floor each day, meeting new people and knowing that I am able to help in any medical surgical unit.”