

A Standardized Approach to the Care of the Critical Trauma Patient: Are We Setting Up the Trauma Nurse for Success?

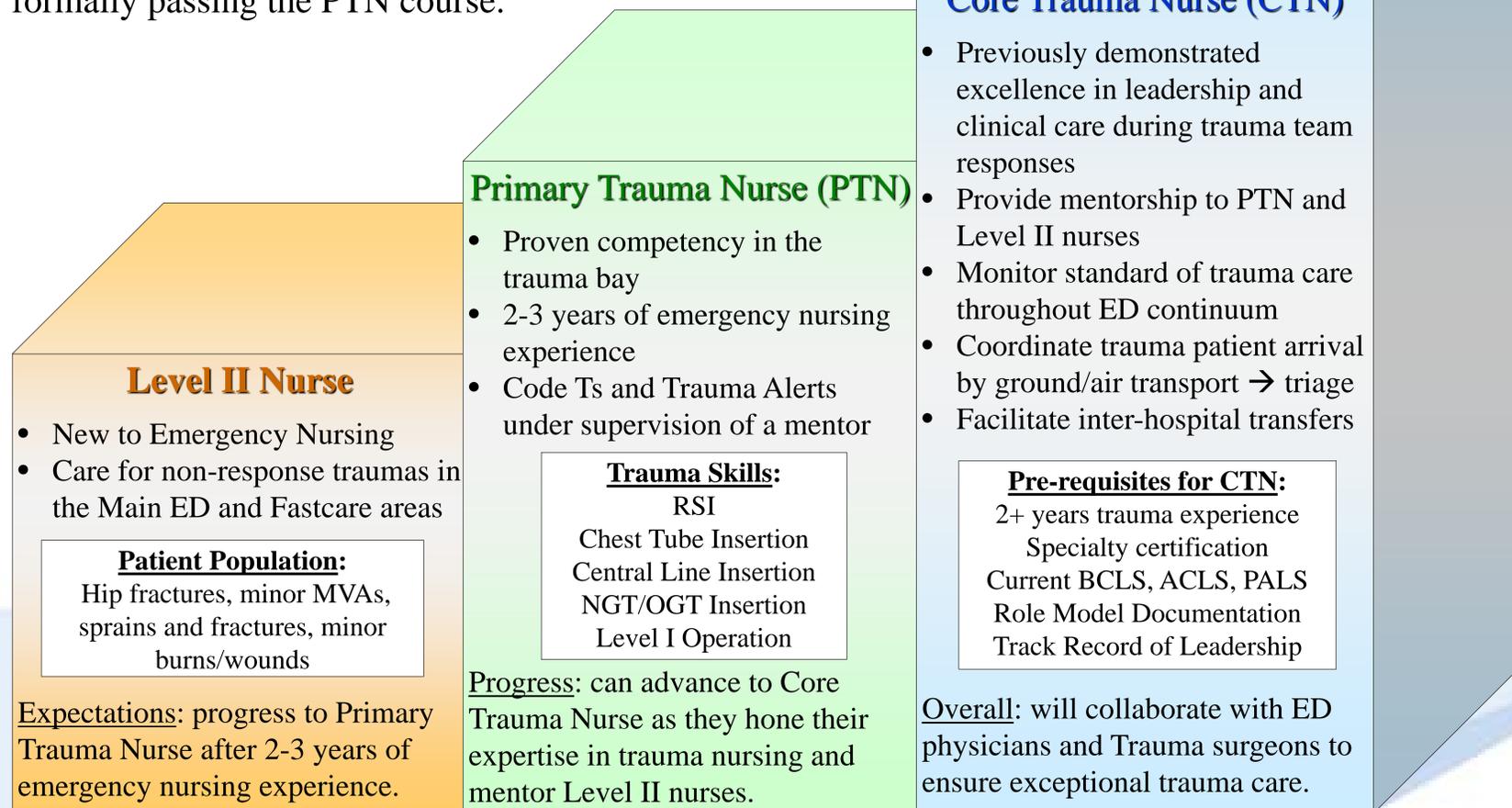
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INTRODUCTION

- As critical trauma patients present to the emergency department (ED), it is paramount that nurses have the appropriate training to provide trauma specific care.
- The Primary Trauma Nurse (PTN) course was principally designed to address this need.
- In order to be considered competent, ED nurses must be familiar with ATLS guidelines, think critically and demonstrate proficiency in core clinical skills.
- After two years, PTNs can apply to become a Core Trauma Nurse (CTN), who serve as mentors for PTNs.

HYPOTHESIS

Nurses are more competent and prepared in approaching trauma patients after formally passing the PTN course.



STUDY DESIGN

- All ED staff nurses pre- and post- completion of PTN course were invited to complete an anonymous survey on REDCap to self-assess level of comfort in responding to specific trauma scenarios
 - Geriatric with multiple comorbidities, pediatric patient, alcohol and head trauma, severe burn patient
- Survey collected information on overall years of nursing experience along with ED specific experience

RESULTS

- 39/50 respondents completed PTN course
- 9/39 were additionally CTNs

Table 1. Survey responses.

	PTN (39)	Non-PTN (11)
First 3 scenarios	1: 110/117 2: 5/117 3: 2/117 4: 0/117	1: 21/33 2: 10/33 3: 2/33 4: 0/33
Burn scenario	1: 16/39 2: 18/39 3: 5/39 4: 0/39	1: 0/11 2: 5/11 3: 5/11 4: 1/11
Total nursing experience	119.2 months	81.4 months
ED specific nursing	84.4 months	48.7 months

*1 = very comfortable; 2 = somewhat comfortable; 3 = very uncomfortable; 4 = completely unprepared

CONCLUSION

- No significant difference in level of nursing between PTN and non-PTN [overall experience (p=0.204), ED-specific (p=0.078)]
- Burns pose a challenge to both groups
- Reassess PTN course and provide more education on management of burn patients
- Data suggests successful completion of PTN confers a subjective advantage when managing trauma patients



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