Katy Gavin

Would Not-For-Cause Randomized Drug Testing Reduce The Incidence of Drug Misuse Among Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists?

Abstract
Healthcare providers have easy access to drugs of various types and strengths, often times highly addictive drugs, all the while working long hours in high stress environments. Studies show that anesthesia providers, among other healthcare providers, are at highest risk for drug misuse. There are numerous ways substance abuse and addiction among anesthesia providers could be decreased significantly or prevented completely including, but not limited to, education, routine mental health evaluations, stress coping through exercise, debriefing sessions, and mentoring. This project focused on prevention through randomized not-for-cause drug testing. After an exhaustive review of the literature was performed, implications for practice and suggestions were summarized in a white paper proposal, which will be presented to key stakeholders to include state and national governing bodies of the nurse anesthesia profession, anesthesia providers, students, and residents.