

Conceptual Framework

Malcolm Knowles' adult learning theory, also known as andragogy, will provide a theoretical framework for this project. Andragogy, or the study of the science and art of adult learning, recognizes that the adult learner is different from the child learner (Knowles et al., 1988). To reach the medical professional audience more effectively, educators must understand a set of five assumptions developed by Knowles.

The first assumption is that adults are motivated to learn as they experience needs and interests that learning will satisfy (Knowles et al., 1988). Therefore, education should be tailored to the needs of key stakeholders, who have expressed the need for an alternative for labor analgesia in the rare event neuraxial is contraindicated. The second and third assumptions are that orientation to learning is life-centered, and experience is the richest source for adult learning (Knowles et al., 1988). Therefore, information should be organized based on life situations, and reflection should be incorporated and encouraged. To integrate these assumptions into this project implementation, the educational session will focus on clinical situations likely encountered and the importance of finding a safe and effective alternative to neuraxial anesthesia when contraindicated. The lived experiences of the providers will impact their understanding of the information provided. Incorporating open-ended questions in the survey will allow providers to reflect and comment on their experiences with parturients. The fourth assumption of Knowles theory states that adult learners prefer to be viewed as self-directed and autonomous in their learning (Knowles et al., 1988). The educational session will be delivered via a live in-service, will be available via Zoom, and will be recorded, giving providers the option to access the information on their own time and at their own pace. Lastly, the fifth assumption states that there are individual differences among adult learners, and to optimize learning experiences, the

educator should consider these differing needs (Knowles et al., 1988). This project will be tailored to many different learning styles. It will include a live presentation with corresponding PowerPoint, including visual aids. These visual aids will be diagrams and tables highlighting yet information. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentation to gain clarity on the material. The adult learning theory, as a framework for this project, has helped inform the methodology for project implementation.