Purpose: The Perianesthesia Care Unit (PACU) sees 100 surgeries a day. The patient population varies. As surgical volume has increased the PACU has had increase in patient transition delays to the next level of care. The average number of PACU transition delays is 200 a month. With this there are many nights when ICU patients are boarded in the recovery room. As boarder volume has increased the Perioperative Services leadership team instituted placing a 10 bed critical care area in the PACU.

Description: The PACU leadership team rearranged flow in the recovery room to accommodate the space for a 10 bed area. Three committees were formed to begin to work on items that were needed to implement this area. One committee was ancillary support, physician coverage and computerized documentation. A workplan of items was created for each committee. There were weekly meetings set up for each committee. Case management, respiratory, dietary, housekeeping, pharmacy, patient placement and guest services. Staff for the area has been put thru additional training.

Evaluation: The 10 bed critical care has opened smoothly. The area has physician and nurse practitioner coverage. The area has alleviated the stress on the recovery room flow with boarders. The critical care area has offered patients the level of care that they require in an environment with proper support and staff.