MONITORING OF LOCAL CASES BY PACU NURSES
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Purpose: MetaVision charting system was chosen by our post-anesthesia care unit (PACU) and our anesthesia providers as the new computer charting system for use in the operating room (OR) and PACU. Local surgical cases done in the OR are not attended to by an anesthesia provider, and in the past, OR nurses have used a paper charting system to document vital signs. With the change to computer charting, came the need for staff, knowledgeable in MetaVision, to be present in the OR to properly document vital signs and the patient’s response to the procedure.

Description: Since PACU nurses use MetaVision charting system daily, it was decided that a PACU nurse would fulfill the role of monitoring and charting during local cases. Five nurses presently have experience in the OR providing moderate sedation for a select group of patients and it was determined that these nurses would rotate this new responsibility. The PACU nurse greets the patient while in the holding area and accompanies him/her to the OR. While in the OR the nurse is able to keep direct contact with the patient, giving reassurance and support while also monitoring and documenting.

Outcome: The OR staff’s response was positive, as they continue to focus on the procedural aspects of the case and document the items relevant to them on separate computer charting. The response from patients was also positive due to the nurse’s ability to focus solely on them during the procedure.