Evidence based research indicates that hypothermia post-operatively can cause many negative sequela. During three months, data was collected and it was determined that hypothermia was an issue in our PACU.

Our objective is to increase the number of patients arriving in PACU with a minimum temperature of 96.8 F, the ASPAN guideline. The PACU is joining forces with the pre-op and the OR to meet the goal.

Moffitt instituted the “Bear Paw” warming system in hopes that our patient population would have increased temperatures. After two months of data collection it was of note that there was only a 3% improvement. We continued to be vigilant in addressing the situation. The Pre-op, OR and PACU staff met, and collaboratively began implementing “warm iv fluids” on cases over one hour as well as the use of “warming pads” in the OR and the earlier initiation of the “Bear Paws” system in Pre-op.

We have continued to track our arrival temperatures and by December 3rd, 2010, we will review the data and evaluate the success of our interventions. All while we continually attempt to improve and resolve hypothermia in the PACU.

Moffitt PACU is promoting education throughout our perianesthesia department on the importance of avoiding hypothermia. We are working collaboratively to ensure our patient’s best outcome.