IMPLEMENTING PRIMARY CARE IN THE PERI-ANESTHESIA SETTING:  
COMMUNICATING PATIENT NEEDS FROM THE PRE-SURGICAL CENTER TO  
THE POST ANESTHESIA CARE UNIT  
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Background: The Pre Surgical Center (PSC) visit often identifies unanticipated patient concerns and special needs. These concerns and special needs are communicated verbally to the Operating Room Nurse; however they do not consistently get communicated to the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU).

Objective: To ensure patient concerns and special needs are identified, documented and met during the peri-anesthesia experience.

Implementation: Nursing representation from the PSC and PACU met to discuss the current process and review the literature. A pilot survey was created for outpatients, identifying patient concerns and special needs on the day of surgery. The results were documented by PSC and available for review by the PACU nurse. As part of the post procedure phone call, a post survey was conducted to evaluate if patient concerns and special needs were met and to evaluate the peri-anesthesia nursing experience.

Successful practice The pilot was conducted over a two month period. Of 229 surveys, results showed 63.8 % of patients expressed at least one concern during the PSC visit. Of this 63.8%, all but one reported their concerns were met. Of the 229 responses 71.2% viewed the nurses as caring. The remainder offered positive comments; there were no negative comments.

Implications for advancing practice: Identifying, communicating, and addressing patient concerns and special needs provide a means to deliver primary care in the peri-operative setting.