Research has been done that promotes the practice of preprocedure warming. The American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses (ASPN) defines hypothermia as a core temperature lower than 36 degrees C. The purpose of this quality improvement project was to support the idea that preprocedure warming maintains perioperative normothermia. Information was obtained through retrospective chart reviewed (n=148). Temperatures were compared for patients who received standard preprocedure care versus patients who were warmed by the Bair Paws gown for one hour preprocedure. Before the institution of warming about 50% of the patients received in PACU were hypothermic. After the warming was instituted only 12% of the patients were received in a hypothermic state in the PACU. Concepts discussed in this paper include pre-procedure warming, post procedure hypothermia and complications associated with hypothermia.

Keywords: Postoperative Hypothermia, Preprocedure Warming, Perioperative Performance Improvement.