**FAMILY VISITATION IN PACU**

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**Background:**

In Nursing Surgical Services (NSS), there are four different areas in which a patient may receive anesthesia: OR, Procedures, Diagnostic Imaging, and Radiation Oncology. Most patients at St. Jude visit all areas at some point during their treatment. Through the Family Advisory Council, parents expressed concerns over varying practices to the director of Nursing Surgical Services.

**Objectives:**

- Examine consistency of the discharge process.
- Evaluate effectiveness of visitation practice.

**Process of Implementation:**

The Director of NSS brought the concerns to the NSS Unit Council. The Family Care Coordinator related family-centered care principles. The Sedation Recovery Resource Nurse provided the department with benchmarks and literature review results, including, information found in the February 2008 issue of *Journal of Perianesthesia Nursing*. A taskforce was developed to determine the course of action. A proposal was made to the NSS Unit Council and approved by the FAC for a practice change. Educational tools were developed specific to each area to aid in the practice change.

“Parents will be notified when the child arrives to PACU and will be reunited with the parent within 30 minutes of arrival. If for some reason, this is not possible, the parent will be notified as to the delay.”

**Statement of Success:**

Through collaboration with families and involvement of all areas within Nursing Surgical Services, parents were reunited with their children sooner, communication between staff and parents improved and overall satisfaction remained high.

Successfully incorporating family-centered care principles during the care of the post-anesthetic pediatric patient encourages others to consider this practice for the overall benefit of the patient and family.