Background: Recognizing the evidence supporting family visitation, guidelines in the postop area had been liberalized, but only pediatric patients had family visitation in preop. Press-Ganey scores indicated that no visitation in preop dissatisfied the patient/family.

Objectives: Develop a guideline that would allow family members at bedside in the preop area to increase patient/family satisfaction and their availability to supplement assessment data or participate in consent processes.

Process of Implementation: Management and nursing staff collaborated to develop basic guidelines for preop visitation. Information about the process was provided to staff members during unit meetings. Up to two family members may remain at the bedside until the patient is taken to the OR. Nurses may use professional judgment in asking family to leave the bedside during certain procedures or in the event of unit emergencies.

Statement of Successful Practice: Patients and families have expressed increased satisfaction with this process. Nurses who were skeptical initially have found it to be beneficial having family at the bedside. There are occasional issues with ease of access due to space constraints within the unit, but staff members have worked to make appropriate adaptations.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Improved patient/satisfaction with the perioperative process. Decreased delays when family is needed to provide information for assessments or signed consents.