**FAMILY-CENTERED CARE IN THE PACU**
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**Introduction/Problem**
Historically, visitors have not been allowed in the Phase I PACU at UCSD Medical Center. Our PACU often has mixture of patients including those of Phase II, and ICU-floor overflow who are allowed to have limited visitation. Inconsistent visiting practices has created anxiety and frustration for patients, families and nursing staff.

**Objective of the project**
The purpose of this study was to evaluate the perceived patient benefit to open visitation in the PACU by patients, family members and staff.

**Methods**
This is an Evidence-Based Project based on an extensive literature review. Pre/post survey design was used with investigator-developed surveys containing Likert scale items about family-centered care and perceived benefit to open visitation. Prior to and three months after open visitation was implemented surveys were administered to patients, families, and nurses in the PACU.

Approximately 20 nurses and 320 patients/families were recruited in this project. Descriptive statistics were used to describe the sample and the answers to survey questions. Inferential statistics were used to analyze the difference between groups during the pre and post test intervals.

**Result/Discussion**
Overall results showed improvement in perceived benefit of open visitation. With open visitation 67% of patients strongly agreed that family presence benefited their recovery vs. 28% from pre-survey. 65% of patients preferred “family help taking care of me” with only 26% from pre-implementation.

Majority of family members surveyed after open visitation, 90% strongly agreed that allowing visiting in the PACU is beneficial to the patient up from 47% pre-survey. Family presence “provide support to the patient” increased to 4.87(Mean Score) on 1-5 scale from 4.11 pre-survey. Families rated “being able to help with simple care,” 4.3 vs. 3.66 pre survey.

Nurses rated their level of concern about PACU space, privacy, etc. had significantly decreased after opening visitation and benefit of open visitation significantly increased.

Prior to implementation over 50% of nurses resisted open visitation, while post-survey showed 63% of nurses agreed that open visitation was beneficial to the patients as well as to their job.

**Conclusion /Implication**
Family members, patients and nurses all responded that there was a significant increase of positive support and perceived benefit to the patient with open visitation in the PACU.
Reference