

Nursing M&M in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit

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Introduction: Morbidity and Mortality (M&M) meetings, also known as clinical review meetings, play a crucial role in improving patient care by identifying systems and processes that need enhancement. These meetings foster an open, supportive environment that encourages discussion and learning among participants.

Identification of the Problem: In our high-acuity, fast-paced PACU there are missed opportunities for learning and improvement. There is currently no formal process for nursing to review cases in order to identify areas for improvement or discuss complications, errors, and successful interventions.

QI Question/Purpose of the Study: Physicians traditionally hold Morbidity and Mortality (M&M) conferences to review complications and outcomes, focusing on care evaluation and improvement. In nursing, particularly in the PACU, the emphasis is on patient care, safety and process improvement. Adopting a similar format allows nursing teams to discuss complications, errors, and successful interventions for improved patient care.

Methods: Nurse M&M meetings are held monthly for one hour, allowing nurses to present cases or insights, with care teams also participating. Each case follows a structured format covering purpose, background, patient history, and key points. The presenter leads a discussion, reviewing policies if deviations are noted. Topics are sourced from adverse event reports, care variations, and near misses.

Outcomes/Results: Nurses surveyed have overwhelmingly agreed that Nurse M&M meetings have positively impacted the unit's overall practice, including collaboration with physician colleagues. These meetings are well-attended, foster meaningful discussions, and promote collaborative quality improvements within our unit.

Discussion: Nursing M&M meetings should foster a supportive atmosphere for open discussions about mistakes, promoting organizational learning. This approach encourages accountability, transparency, and the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills. By reviewing errors, deviations, and successful interventions, M&Ms help apply evidence-based practices and improve patient care while reinforcing relevant policies.

Conclusion: Nursing M&M supports nursing, practice and education. It also empowered nurses in quality improvement and collaboration with physician colleagues.

Implications for perianesthesia nurses and future research: Nursing M&M conferences promote transparency, empower nurses to speak up as part of the healthcare team, and encourage nurses to discuss cases with the goals of education and improving care. These discussions can help identify action items for change and educational needs on the unit.