Developing Family Visitation Guidelines to Enhance the Patients Perioperative Experience

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Introduction

Facilitating family visitation throughout perioperative phases of care has been controversial due to obstacles inherent of this setting. Literature demonstrates facilitating family visitation can be beneficial to patient outcomes and is supported by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the American Society of Perianesthesia Nurses (ASPSA). Consequently, hospitals are challenged to develop and implement policies and procedures supporting family visitation.

Methods

• A 2012 survey of American PACU practices revealed only 19% allowed adult patient family visitation.
• Studies note patient/family support of visitation; while nursing staff are opposed due to patient-care concerns and inability of family members to cope with the environmental activities.
• Attitudinal differences between TUKH Liaisons and Pre/Post staff, compounded by a lack of clear visitation guidelines, created barriers to visitation facilitation during pre and post phases of care.

Project Outcomes

Utilizing the findings, the committee developed an algorithm, creating clear visitation expectations that staff would use to guide them in the facilitation of visitation.

Conclusions & Implications

Post survey of participants revealed:
• Engaging staff in the process of creating a visitation protocol was 95% effective in developing a visitation plan that would assist staff to facilitate visitation in the recovery phase of care by 54% (Table 3).
• Qualitative data revealed continued concerns with space, privacy and interference with providing quality patient care, as well as a need for patient/family and staff education on the importance and expectations surrounding visitation in the recovery phase of care.

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References