

MONITORING TIME REQUIRED IN PACU FOR OUTPATIENTS AFTER ADMINISTRATION OF ORAL OPIOIDS

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Background/Problem:

- PACU nurses have questioned the current policy of requiring outpatients to be monitored for 60 minutes post oral opioid administration.
- Different PACUs within the same institution have different practice and policies.
- Patients and family members have expressed dissatisfaction with the policy that delays the discharge to home.
- No significant side effects or reactions have been noted during the observation period.

Objective/Purpose:

- To review the evidence using the Johns Hopkins Hospital Evidence Based Practice Model.
- To determine the minimum safe monitoring period in the PACU post oral opioid administration for outpatients.

Method/Process:

- Identified EBP question, defined scope of practice question, identified team members and responsibilities.
- Telephone survey completed to a sampling of comparable large teaching hospitals in the nation.
- Literature search conducted and articles reviewed.

Significance of Findings:

- Telephone survey showed that monitoring requirements varied and many institutions do not have a written policy. PACUs in the other hospitals said they would be interested in hearing about the results of our project.
- Literature search revealed that there is very little research or evidence on this topic.

Implications for Perianesthesia nurses and future research:

- It is a national issue that there are varied practices amongst PACUs and there is little evidence in the literature.
- Research is needed to come up with standard guidelines.