

WORLD NURSING EDUCATION AND EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE CONFERENCE

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Developing an effective morbidity and mortality conference for operating room nurses

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Statement of the Problem: Morbidity and Mortality (M&M) conferences were started in 1912 and have been an arena allowing physicians to review case studies in which errors occurred. The M&M conference design allows surgeons to conduct peer-review assessment of patient outcomes for improving patient care. Nurses have largely been neglected when it comes to learning from complications and/or mistakes within the Operating Room (OR). This project is an attempt to bridge that gap and improve performance by non-physician operative staff.

Methodology: This was a quasi-experimental repeated measures design. Participants attending the preliminary nursing M&M conferences were asked to complete a survey providing feedback. That information was used to initiate change followed by a secondary (post) data collection six months later. The survey questionnaire was used to assess the change in perception of the M&M conferences from the pre to post-survey. The questionnaires allow for matching before and after responses to assess the change.

Findings: Staff provided overwhelmingly positive response to the nursing M&M conferences. They reported an increase in their understanding of certain policies and procedures as well as communication and team-related aspects of the OR environment. Several participants commented on an increased feeling of inclusion.

Conclusion & Significance: Operating Room errors can lead to significant morbidity, mortality and/or substantial monetary losses. Improving the understanding and practice of the non-physician staff as well as improving teamwork and communication can all positively impact patients and their outcomes.

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