

Alarm fatigue was identified as a major safety issue, and the goal is to minimize nuisance alarms.

**Methodology:** This study was conducted in four Kaiser-Permanente hospitals. Standard data for RVM (ExSpiron 1Xi, Waltham, MA), oximetry (Philips IntelliVue MP 50), capnography and oximetry (Philips SureSigns VM8) were collected post-operatively, either in post anesthesia care unite (PACU) or general hospital floor (GHF). Device-specific alarms were recorded electronically and later categorized into physiological (actionable) and technical (nuisance) alarms. Alarm rates were calculated and compared across devices. A total of 247 patients were monitored by RVM from a broad population (104 males)

**Result:** In one site, bedside monitor reported continuous EtCO<sub>2</sub> and SpO<sub>2</sub> for 7 patients with an average of 12.9 alarm/hr, 72.8% of which were technical alarms. The RVM only had 0.25 alarm/hr (4% technical) for the same group. Furthermore, simultaneous EtCO<sub>2</sub>/SpO<sub>2</sub> monitoring were conducted for only 51 of 127 available hours due to fear of nuisance alarms, whereas RVM completed all 127 hours. Among 7 patients that received only SpO<sub>2</sub> and RVM monitoring, RVM had lower alarm rates (1.5 vs 0.36 alarm/hr, 67% vs 8% technical). At another site 15 patients were monitored with SpO<sub>2</sub> telemetry, with an average of 3.31 alarm/hr (19% technical), compared to 0.25 alarm/hr (4% technical) for RVM.

**Conclusion:** Alarm fatigue due to nuisance alarms is a challenge in perioperative settings regardless of the potential clinical value of monitoring. Among the three respiratory monitoring technologies, RVM had the highest rate of compliance (100%) and the lowest rate of technical alarms. In contrast, EtCO<sub>2</sub>/SpO<sub>2</sub> combination monitoring was not used for >50% of available time, raising questions on overall patient safety.

### I AM LISTENING: IMPROVING DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS AMONG SAME DAY SURGERY PATIENTS IN UCLA SANTA MONICA PTU/PACU



Primary Investigator: Hannah Jacinto, BSN RN  
UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, California  
Co-Investigators: Cirha Becker, BSN RN PCCN, David Miller, MSN MHA RN NE-BC, Vi Nguyen, RN BSN CPAN CNII, Tammy Camacho, RN CNII, Foluso Akende, ACCP

**Introduction:** Research has shown that insufficient discharge instructions affect patients' adherence to treatment plans, delays postoperative recovery, causes inadequate pain control, and is related to an increase in hospital readmissions and emergency room visits (Horstman et al., 2017).

**Identification of the problem:** Anecdotal reports and complaints obtained from routine post-operative phone calls done by PACU nurses revealed that some patients did not receive adequate discharge instructions, or in some instances received no discharge instructions at all.

**QI question/Purpose of the study:** The purpose of the study is to achieve the following goals: 1. Ensure that UCLA Santa Monica PTU/PACU's ranking on the Press Ganey Ambulatory Surgery Report, Written Discharge Instructions category will consistently be in the 50th percentile and above by January

2019. 2. Ensure that written discharge instructions are provided by PACU nurses 100% of the time by January 2019. 3. Ensure that Discharge instructions (written and verbal) are provided by PACU nurses 95% of the time or greater by January 2019.

**Methods:** PTU/PACU UPC introduced a yellow discharge envelope to keep the discharge instructions organized. PTU/PCU UPC supplemented the yellow discharge folder by developing the "Partnering with U" flyer. PTU/ PACU UPC conducted a post-intervention phone calls and collected data from a sample of 50 patients.

**Outcomes/Results:** Press Ganey Ambulatory Surgery Report results showed an increase in the percentile ranking of UCLA Santa Monica PTU/PACU in the Written Discharge Instructions category from Results from the post intervention phone calls conducted revealed that 68% of patients received the yellow discharge folder and 92% of patients received verbal discharge instructions.

**Discussion:** The results provide initial evidence that use of the yellow discharge folder has significantly affected UCLA Santa Monica's Press Ganey Standing and increased the frequency that patients receive verbal discharge instructions from their health care providers.

**Conclusion:** The current study demonstrates that the use of researched discharge techniques that has the ability to improve patients' experiences and ensure proper recovery.

**Implications for perianesthesia nurses and future research:** PTU/ PACU UPC recommends further monitoring of the Press Ganey percentile rank. Moreover, it is recommended that staff education regarding the new discharge process continue.

### PROTOCOL FOR USE OF RESPIRATORY VOLUME MONITORING IN THE PACU OF A TERTIARY CARE MEDICAL CENTER



Primary Investigator: Jennifer O'Dwyer, BSN RN  
Tufts Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts  
Co-Investigators: Jasmin Imsirovic, PhD, Farhad Zahedi, MD, Iwona Bonney, PhD, Roman Schumann, MD

**Introduction:** The Joint Commission recognizes opioid-induced respiratory depression as a safety target and recommends additional monitoring for patients receiving opioids. Respiratory volume monitors (RVM) provide objective measurements of respiratory status and help detect respiratory compromise.

**Identification of the problem:** The most vulnerable time for patients is the first 24 hours post-operatively when the effects of general anesthesia, opioids, antiemetics, and sleep deprivation compound together. While the RVM accurately monitors patients' respiratory status, no PACU protocol for RVM use exists in our facility.

**QI question/Purpose of the study:** We describe previously reported results of our study that identified patients at risk for respiratory compromise in the PACU and on the general hospital floor (GHF). Our goal was to develop a nursing protocol for RVM use in the PACU to confirm clinical assessments and triage patients.

**Methods:** 119 patients were monitored using a RVM in both the PACU and GHF. The monitor reported minute ventilation, which was used to identify patients with low minute ventilation events (LMVe). Patients were separated into two groups: those