Staff Perceptions Before and After Adding Single Family Rooms in the NICU

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to evaluate staff perceptions of environmental quality before and after a renovation of an existing open-bay neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and the addition of 23 single-family NICU rooms in the Wasie Neonatal ICU at Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital in Hollywood, FL. In recent years there has been an increase in the design and construction of single-family rooms (SFRs) because they provide more privacy for families, offer better control over environmental stimuli, such as lighting and noise, and may even reduce infections. On the other hand, this model may cause staff members to feel isolated from one another, reduce their ability to respond quickly in a crisis situation, or impose additional demands. There are few studies documenting the advantages and disadvantages of the single-family room NICU model. This study utilized pre- and post-move surveys and informal interviews to investigate staff perceptions of their NICU. Conclusion: Overall, staff members perceive the quality of the work environment, and the safety and quality of the environment provided to patients and their families, to be better in their renovated, combination NICU design (SFR and open bay) when compared to the open-bay, pre-move design.