

Recovery at Home: An Assessment of Patient, Caregiver and Clinician Perspectives on Modern Post-Surgical Care

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Background: Traditionally, postoperative care occurred in hospitals under physician guidance. This paradigm has shifted with most recovery now occurring in the ambulatory setting. As a result, far more responsibility is placed on patients and their caregivers. Literature discussing patient and caregiver perspectives on post-discharge care as it pertains to symptom management and provider engagement is scarce, especially among the underserved. Our primary aim is to define the post-discharge experience from the perspective of patients, caregivers and providers with attention to race.

Methods: We plan to use freelist, an anthropologic method in which interviewees list responses to a prompt, to identify common perceptions. Freelist guides will be developed with input from patient stakeholders and a medical anthropologist. Patients, caregivers, and providers will be asked questions regarding post-discharge experience, including tasks and perceptions of underlying causes for adverse events. Sampling of patients undergoing oncologic surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania will be performed until thematic saturation in both African-American and white cohorts. Descriptive statistics will be performed on sociodemographic variables. Results will be analyzed utilizing Anthropac which generates a salience index for each categorized term.

Impact: Theme identification will contribute to our learning health system by informing the development of a patient-centered feedback system for surgical recovery and will be used as pilot data for a PCORI grant to implement said system. This work will expand current knowledge and contribute to disparity eradication by incorporating information deemed salient by both patients of diverse backgrounds and providers.