

INTRODUCTION

This study evaluated the effects of a structured Moment of Honor held at the beginning of an organ donor case on the perceptions and attitudes of operating room (OR) staff involved in the recovery process. The Moment of Honor was created to honor organ donors and their families, to highlight how care of the organ donor translates into care of the recipient, and to remind the recovery team of their role in maximizing the passing of the heroic gift of life from one human being to another. The objective of the study was to validate that a Moment of Honor could positively impact the opinions of OR staff concerning organ donation.




INSPIRATION

A common theme found during literature review was the significance of education and the positive impact that communication and promotional activities have on attitudes of those involved with donation. An aspect of the field that was missing was the impact of improved communication on attitude and morale specifically addressing the operative team involved in caring for an organ donor during the recovery process.

Donation promotion activities are necessary for these services, given the importance that this group's negative attitude could have on the attitudes of the general population.¹ More education and increased transparency in the organ donation process are necessary. Health care professionals with positive attitudes toward organ donation may have a positive impact on the attitudes of the general public toward organ donation.²


MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study involved OPO staff reading 1 of 2 interchangeable scripts to honor the organ donor followed by a 30 second moment of silence at the beginning of the organ recovery. A perception survey was completed at the end of the recovery, which requested OR staff members self-assess their feelings and attitudes regarding organ donation prior to participating in the case, during the moment of silence honoring the donor and following the case. A sliding scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being most negative and 5 being most positive) was used to quantify the data. The staff members were also asked to determine if the moment of honor had a positive impact on their feelings concerning organ donation.



Moment of Honor

From our first breath to our last, each of us tells a unique story with our lives. Today we honor _____ in this opportunity to save the life of another person. As we care for him/her now we are also caring for the recipients. We are extending respect to the families of both the donor and the recipients, and caring for one another in the way we share this space. May we take a moment now in silence to remember _____ and all who are joined by his/her story from this moment and in the days ahead.



Moment of Honor

Today we share a common space and join in a common cause. Through the caring touch of our hearts and hands, we join our efforts to care for _____, and for all who benefit from this gift of life. For all the children, grandchildren, friends and family who are touched by what we do here today, may we remember that fresh hopes and dreams began with the gift of this one person. May we take a moment now in silence to honor the life of _____.

PERCEPTION SURVEY

Perception Survey for UNOS ID# _____ Coordinator completing form: _____

1) On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being most negative, 3 being neutral and 5 being the most positive, prior to participating in this case, how would you rate your feelings about organ donation?

Anesthesia / CRNA: _____ Thoracic MD: _____
Surgical RN / CST: _____ Thoracic MD/ MS/ PA: _____
Circulating RN: _____ Abdominal MD: _____
Additional RN: _____ Abdominal MD/ MS/ PA: _____
Other (specify): _____ Other (specify): _____

2) Using the same Scale, how would you rate your feelings about the moment of silence honoring the donor?

Anesthesia / CRNA: _____ Thoracic MD: _____
Surgical RN / CST: _____ Thoracic MD/ MS/ PA: _____
Circulating RN: _____ Abdominal MD: _____
Additional RN: _____ Abdominal MD/ MS/ PA: _____
Other (specify): _____ Other (specify): _____

3) Using the same scale, now that you are finished with this case, how would you rate your feelings about organ donation?

Anesthesia / CRNA: _____ Thoracic MD: _____
Surgical RN / CST: _____ Thoracic MD/ MS/ PA: _____
Circulating RN: _____ Abdominal MD: _____
Additional RN: _____ Abdominal MD/ MS/ PA: _____
Other (specify): _____ Other (specify): _____

4) Do you feel the moment of honor impacted your feelings about organ donation? (Please answer yes or no)

Anesthesia / CRNA: _____ Thoracic MD: _____
Surgical RN / CST: _____ Thoracic MD/ MS/ PA: _____
Circulating RN: _____ Abdominal MD: _____
Additional RN: _____ Abdominal MD/ MS/ PA: _____
Other (specify): _____ Other (specify): _____

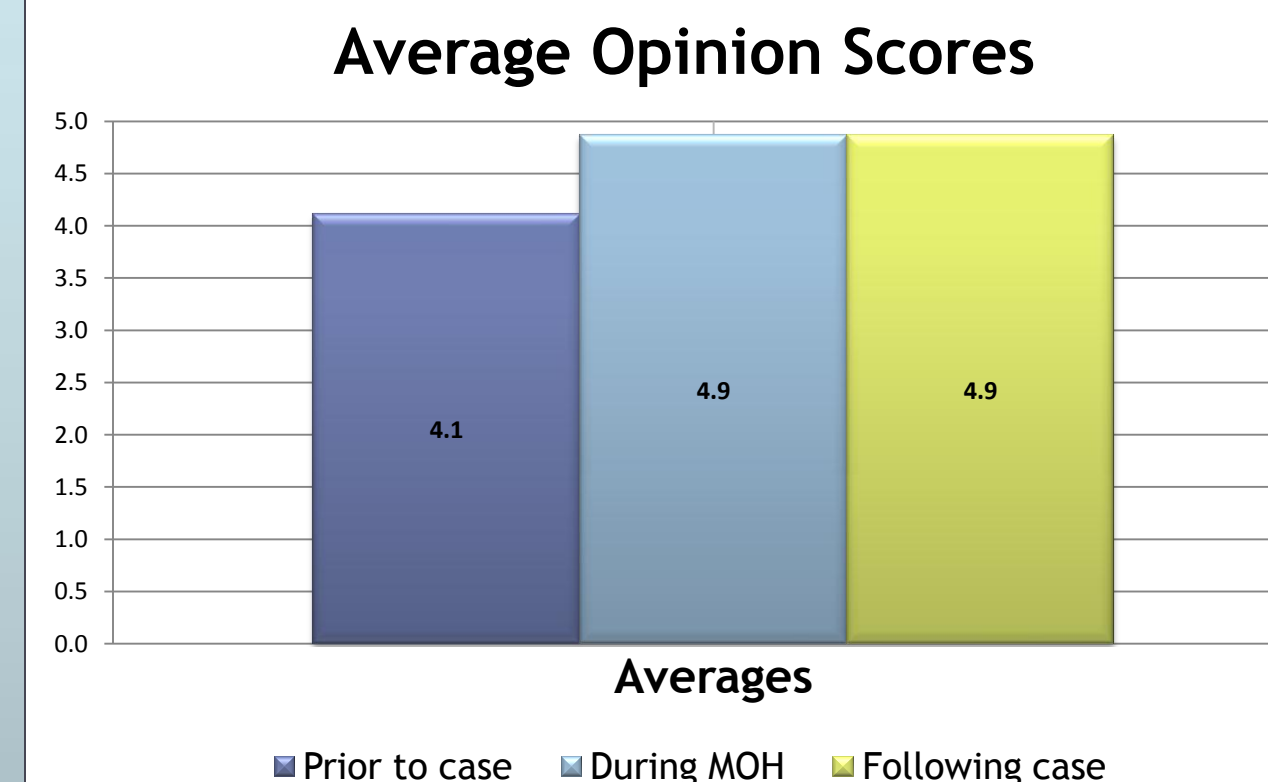
5) Is this your first experience with CDS's moment of honor? (Please answer yes or no)

Anesthesia / CRNA: _____ Thoracic MD: _____
Surgical RN / CST: _____ Thoracic MD/ MS/ PA: _____
Circulating RN: _____ Abdominal MD: _____
Additional RN: _____ Abdominal MD/ MS/ PA: _____
Other (specify): _____ Other (specify): _____

Additional Comments: _____

RESULTS

Perception surveys were returned on 48% of organ donor cases. Analysis of responses from 31 cases over a 4 month period yielded the following opinion scores.



CONCLUSION

Families are often concerned about the quality of care and the compassion that their loved one will receive in the operating room during the organ recovery. The Moment of Honor was established to help ensure that every person involved in the recovery process understands the impact they have in facilitating the precious gift of life. The results of this study suggest that a structured Moment of Honor improves perceptions and has a positive impact on the surgical team involved in the organ recovery.



REFERENCES

- Rios A, et al. Attitudes toward deceased organ donation and transplantation among the workers in the surgical services in a hospital with a transplant team. *Transplant Proceedings*. 2005; 13(9), 3603-3608
- Radunz S, et al. Attitudes of health care professionals to organ donation: two surveys among the staff of a German university hospital. *Transplant Proceeding*. 2010; 42(1): 126-129.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to Greg Hershberger, Family Support Coordinator and Ginger DeLario, Clinical Education Coordinator for collaboration in development of the Moment of Honor statements. Without the direct involvement of Preservation Coordinators Chris Brooke, David Boles, Katrina Medley, Lee Hinesley, Lori Rankin, Lori Watkins, and Peter Jordan, this project would not have been successful.

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