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### Roommates and Privacy: An Evaluation of Patient Satisfaction with Shared Rooms in Medical-Surgical Units

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# ROOMMATES AND PRIVACY: AN EVALUATION OF PATIENT SATISFACTION WITH SHARED ROOMS IN MEDICAL-SURGICAL UNITS

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## BACKGROUND

Two patients often share a hospital room on medical-surgical floors. However, this arrangement does not consider the patients’ subjective sense of privacy, comfort, or quality of sleep. When those needs are unmet, patients are less satisfied with their hospital stay. There is some research on patient’s preference for private rooms versus shared rooms.

## PROBLEM

In patients admitted to medical-surgical units how does having shared rooms compared to private rooms influence patient perception of privacy and satisfaction with their stay.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Title: Single-Room Ward Design and Its Impact on Service and Patient Outcomes: An Evaluation Study  
Purpose: To study single-room occupancy for patients as opposed to shared rooms, and its influence on adverse outcomes and patient satisfaction.  
Method: This evaluation study at a single site used medical record audit, surveys, and nonparticipant observation.  
Results: Patients reported that they felt safe in single rooms, had more privacy, and better quality of sleep. No adverse outcomes were correlated with single room occupancy.  
Conclusion and Evidence level: The single-room design optimized patient’s sleep, experience, and well-being and was a safe and effective method of delivering care. Because the results of this study were based off survey of a relatively small group, it is evidence level 3.

Title: Patients' and Nurses' Experiences of All Single-Room Hospital Accommodation: A Scoping Review.  
Purpose: This study sought to explore what is known about single rooms in hospitals through patient and nurse experiences.  
Method: This was a scoping review across 22 different sources of scientific and gray literature examining patients’ or nurses’ experiences of single room accommodation in acute surgical and medical hospitals, mostly published between 2013-2020.  
Results: Regarding patient experience, patients preferred single rooms because it increased their sense of personal control and privacy, particularly for the younger population and the chronically ill. It also found that single rooms also increased the rates of loneliness and boredom, especially for the older population. Single rooms presented challenges for nursing care if it increased the size of the wards.  
Conclusion and Evidence level: The overall conclusion was that single rooms were beneficial in increasing both privacy and patient satisfaction. Because this scoping review included a large amount of data from many different sources, it is evidence level 2.

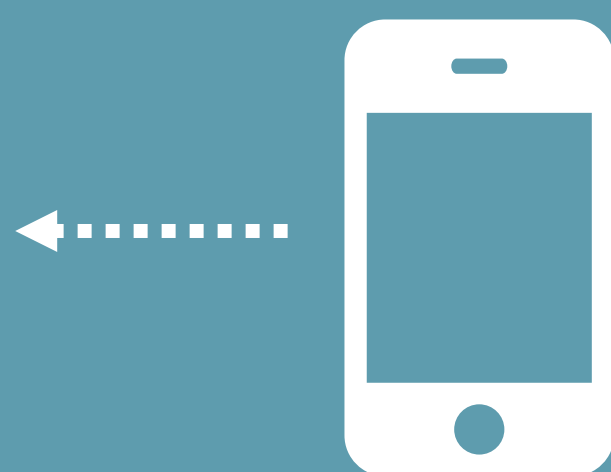
Title: Care to Share? Patients in Private Rooms Are More Likely to Recommend a Hospital to Others  
Purpose: To determine if private versus shared hospital rooms increased the likelihood of a patient recommending a hospital to determine the quality of their care and experience  
Method: The Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems Survey was given to 10,703 patients from November 2018 to February 2021. Statistical analysis such as chi-squared test and multivariate regression were used on the results of the survey.  
Results: Patients in private rooms were more likely to recommend the hospital when compared to patients in semi-private rooms.  
Conclusion and Evidence level: There was an increase in patient satisfaction correlated with private rooms. This is a level 2 evidence level.

## FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

Current research suggests that single rooms provide benefits to patients regarding their subjective quality of sleep, their privacy and sense of safety, and their satisfaction with their hospital stay. However, this research is largely qualitative and survey-based. Maine Medical Center Biddeford and Sanford could develop a survey considering the influence of shared rooms on patient’s perceptions of their privacy, comfort, and proficiency of care to see if this research aligns with the hospital’s specific patient population. Future quantitative research could focus on the influence of shared rooms on maintaining HIPPA privacy between roommates. Additional research could also focus on sleep quality and duration for patients in single rooms versus shared rooms. A gap in current research is a lack of opinion of physical and occupational therapists, speech therapists, respiratory therapists, and other miscellaneous care providers on shared rooms. Their opinion should also be considered, since shared rooms may delay or impair therapy due to space constraints or medical attention of the roommate.

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