

Research Abstract

Health Care Personnel Attitudes, Concerns, and Beliefs toward Family Presence during CPR and Bedside Invasive Procedures

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Purpose

The study was to determine the attitudes, concerns, and beliefs related to family presence during cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and bedside invasive procedures (BIP) of RNs, physicians, CRNAs, and other staff.

Background/Significance

Staff RNs and physician's attitudes, concerns, and beliefs about family presence during CPR and BIP are known primarily for individuals working in the emergency room and pediatric populations. Little is known about the attitudes, concerns, and beliefs of RNs, physicians, CRNAs, and other staff.

Methods

The descriptive and correlational study was conducted by a questionnaire to collect demographic data and a 16-item Family Presence and Support: Staff Assessment Survey. Items were rated on a likert scale from "1" strongly agree to "5" strongly disagree, yes-no response, and open-ended questions. Surveys were distributed to staff RNs, management RNs, physicians, CRNAs, respiratory therapists, orderlies, and spiritual care staff. Descriptive statistics and Pearson correlations were applied for data analysis.

Results

625 out of 1402 surveys were returned for a 45% response rate. Support for giving family the option of being present during resuscitation was reported at 61.3% and during invasive procedures at 67.9%. Study findings showed support for family presence during CPR or BIP by those with national certification, non members of the code blue team, and Critical Care and Emergency Room nurses. CRNAs were the least likely to support family presence at 17.6% whereas RNs reported support at 65.4%. RNs felt family members should have the option to be present more than non-RNs ($p=.000$) and RNs more than physicians ($p=.000$).

Conclusions

Findings reveal both support and non-support for families to be present during CPR and BIP. Providing family presence as an option provides an opportunity for reluctant healthcare team members to refuse their presence and an opportunity for those who support family presence to welcome the family.