Policy and Procedure Implications Related to Family Presence during Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Invasive Procedures
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Problem: The presence of family members during cardiopulmonary resuscitation and invasive procedures continues to be an ongoing issue in healthcare.

Appraisal of Evidence: A comprehensive search strategy of 24 international databases was implemented to identify 25 qualitative and mixed-method studies that met the inclusion criteria. Studies were included that answered the research question of how family and health practitioners experience family presence. The Qualitative Assessment and Review Instrument developed by the Joanna Briggs Institute was used for data appraisal.

Strategy for Change: Institutions need to write policy and protocols on family presence during resuscitation and invasive procedures based on the best available evidence so 1) staff have a clear decision making path and 2) to decrease idiosyncratic decision making amongst staff.

Design to Evaluate Outcomes: Once policies and procedures are implemented, health care institutions need to design evaluative measures to determine efficacy of the protocol.

Results of Impact of Change: Although healthcare practitioners express concern that the practice will cause the family to experience psychological trauma the data does suggest that this is the case. Most family members describe their presence as an opportunity to comfort and to gain closure.

Recommendations for Adoption: Based on the appraised evidence, the researchers strongly recommend that health care institutions consider the implementation of family presence and have written policies and protocol related to this issue. With adoption of a family presence policy, institutions need to consider the addition of a credentialed family advocate or family facilitator to their code team who can support and answer questions before, during and after the event.

Lessons Learned: Health care practitioners should be cognizant that not all benefits will be immediately identifiable and that the memories of being present may far outweigh any psychological trauma; however, it is important that families be given the opportunity to make a choice. Amongst practitioners, nurses seem most comfortable with the practice and advocate for policies that allow for implementation.

Bibliography:
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