

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation: Presence of family members

All patients have the right to have family members present during cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and indeed the patient's family members should be offered the opportunity to be present, European critical care societies believe.

In a joint position statement the European Federation of Critical Care Nursing Associations (EfCCNa), the European Society of Paediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care (ESPNIC) and the European Society of Cardiology Council on Cardiovascular Nursing and Allied Professions (CCNAP) say the decision to enable family members to be present during a resuscitation attempt should be made in the best interests of the person who is being resuscitated. However, when the person who is being resuscitated is unable to communicate his/her wishes, or has not previously expressed them, the decision about who should be present should be made jointly by the members of the resuscitation team and family members.

Support should be provided by an appropriately qualified health professional whose responsibility is to care for family members witnessing CPR, and professional counselling should be offered to family members who have witnessed a resuscitation event. Moreover all the members of the team who were involved in a resuscitation attempt when family members were present should participate in a team debriefing.

The position statement was formulated as a response to the controversies that exist around family-witnessed CPR and the small number of intensive care units that had resuscitation policies that included guidance on family members' presence. However, it appears that not all European countries are supportive of family member presence during CPR, and in addition further

research on the impacts on patients, family members and health professionals is required.

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CONNECT: The World of Critical Care Nursing

CONNECT: The World of Critical Care Nursing is the official journal of the World Federation of Critical Care Nurses. This is an electronic journal available free of charge.

The main purpose of *CONNECT* is to provide a forum for critical care nurses around the world to share good practice. One of its founding principles is that of support and it aims to create a nurturing environment that enables all critical care nurses to have a voice. For this reason no articles are rejected on the basis of language, and the editors undertake to provide help to authors, especially those writing in a second language.

The *CONNECT*ions theme is developed throughout the journal and there are several regular features:

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The December 2007 issue will have a strong South African focus, including an editorial and articles from South Africa and abstracts from the CCSSA congress that was held in Sun City in August 2007.

I would encourage you to visit the journal website: www.connectpublishing.com and register.

Juan Scribante

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South Africa wins World Critical Care Congress

The World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine has awarded the hosting of the 2013 Congress to South Africa. This important international event is held every four years. The host city is still to be decided.