ABSTRACT

RESEARCH SUBJECT:  Nurses' Perceptions of Family Presence During Resuscitation

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The issue of family presence during resuscitation (FPDR) creates an ongoing controversy among nurses. FPDR has been promoted by nursing organizations including the American Association of Critical Care Nurses and Emergency Nurses Association. However, many clinicians do not support or value FPDR. To clarify the controversy, more information is needed on nurses’ perceptions of FPDR. The purpose of this study was to explore nurses' perceptions of FPDR and the relationships of these perceptions to selected demographic variables. This study was a partial replication of a study by Twibell, Siela, Riwitis, Wheatley, Riegle, Bousman, et al. (2008). Guided by family system theory data were collected from 150 registered nurses working in a Midwestern hospital. Nurses completed a survey that measured a variety of perceptions related to FPDR, including risks, benefits and self-confidence. Findings provide information to nurse leaders, managers, and direct care providers regarding needs for further education and factors that influence staff nurses’ decision-making related to FPDR.