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April 1999

Title: The exploration of perceptions of the immediate needs of adult family members of adult intensive care unit patients in Hong Kong

ABSTRACT

This survey study aimed to explore the perceptions of immediate needs of adult family members of adult ICU patients in Hong Kong. It also analyze the relationship between the perceptions and demographic characteristics of family members, and patients' diseases.

The Chinese version of Critical Care Family Need Inventory (Wong, 1995) was employed to investigate the perceptions of 40 adult family members conveniently selected from an adult ICU of a Hong Kong general hospital. Data were collected through personal interviews within 24 to 72 hours after the patients' admission to ICU within the two months period.

No new need was identified in this study. 25 need items out of 45 need items were rated as important or very important. "To know the expected outcome" was ranked as the number one need. All needs related to assurance (7 items) were ranked within the top 10, whilst needs related to support were ranked as the least important. The top ten important needs were met 81.5% (ranged from 60%-95%). Most of the needs were perceived as met by doctors and nurses. Statistical significant differences of perceived needs were identified between difference gender groups, groups with and without experience of visiting ICU, groups with and without religious, and family members of surgical and medical patients.