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Title: The exploration of the important needs of parents during the hospitalization of their children of one to seven years old

ABSTRACT

The present study uses a quantitative approach to explore the needs among parents of 1- 7 years-old children who are hospitalized. The study describes the needs of 56 parents, 20 fathers and 36 mothers, of hospitalized 1- 7 years-old, in a Pediatric ward of Pamela Youde Nethersole Hospital in Hong Kong. Subjects responded to 39 statements of possible needs during a child's hospitalization on a Likert-type scale based on their perception of importance of items.

The chief findings showed that none of the statements were perceived to be unimportant. Items related to parents' need to trust nurses and doctors, and items related to parents' need for information were consistently related as lying between important and very important.

Needs related to other family members were consistently rated as important. Needs related to human and physical resources, the need for support and guidance and need to be trusted were in general rated lowest. Although not very thorough, the statements presented were found to be representative of the needs and concerns of parents during the hospitalization of their children in Hong Kong.