

Nurses' Perceptions and Practices of Family-Centred Care in a Children's Hospital



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Background

Family-Centred Care (FCC) has been widely accepted as fundamental to paediatric nursing. However challenges in the operationalisation of FCC in children's hospitals or paediatric units exist. Studies have yielded varied findings on FCC perceptions and practices among nurses working in paediatric settings. It was unknown how nurses at the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) embraced FCC.

Aim

The aim of this study was to examine nurses' perceptions and practices of FCC in a children's hospital.

Methods

- A descriptive cross-sectional design, using the Family-Centred Care Questionnaire-Revised (FCCQ-R), which consists of 44 items, representing 9 subscales (Bruce & Ritchie, 1997).
- Nurses working in 10 inpatient departments at RCH, during June/July 2021 were invited to participate in the study.
- Participants were asked to rate each item and indicate whether it was *necessary to practice* FCC and then rate to what extent the item was *currently practiced* in their everyday work.
- Items were ranked on a five-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

Results

Table 1. Demographics (n=40)

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
20- to 30 years	22	55 %
31 to 40 years	8	20 %
41 to 50 years	4	10 %
>50 years	6	15 %
Education Level		
Hospital Certificate/Diploma	1	2.5 %
Bachelor's degree	13	32.5 %
Post-Graduate Certificate/Diploma	18	45 %
Master's Degree / Doctorate Degree (PhD)	8	20 %
Primary Role		
Registered Nurse/Clinical Nurse Specialist	27	67.5 %
Advanced Practice Nurse/ Education	5	12.5 %
Leadership/Management	8	20 %
Years of Paediatric Nursing Experience		
Less than 1 year	2	5 %
1-5 years	13	32.5 %
6-10 years	12	30 %
>10 years	13	32.5 %

Results

Table 2. Differences in subscale mean scores between the necessary and the current practice scales

Subscales	Necessary to practice	Current practices	Differences	
	M (SD)	M (SD)	M (SD)	p-value
Family is the constant	4.26 (0.42)	3.75 (0.59)	0.50 (0.65)	<.001
Parent or professional collaboration	4.02 (0.53)	3.31 (0.51)	0.71 (0.55)	<.001
Family individuality recognition	4.51 (0.43)	3.92 (0.53)	0.59 (0.51)	<.001
Information sharing	4.24 (0.47)	3.33 (0.57)	0.91 (0.59)	<.001
Parent-to-parent support	3.97 (0.56)	3.06 (0.56)	0.90 (0.86)	<.001
Developmental needs	4.27 (0.47)	3.60 (0.51)	0.67 (0.50)	<.001
Emotional or financial support	4.24 (0.41)	3.59 (0.59)	0.64 (0.56)	<.001
Healthcare system design	4.10 (0.42)	3.22 (0.56)	0.88 (0.64)	<.001
Emotional support for employees	4.27 (0.48)	3.37 (0.76)	0.90 (0.76)	<.001
Total scores	4.23 (0.36)	3.44 (0.38)	0.78 (0.43)	<.001

- Nurses perceived that most elements were necessary for FCC.
- Nurses' perceptions toward FCC were significantly higher than what they perceived they could implement in their day-to-day practice.
- 'Recognition of family individuality' scored the highest in both scales
- Facilitating 'parent-to-parent support' scored the lowest in both scales

Conclusion

This study found different practices and perceptions of FCC among paediatric nurses. It was evident that nurses recognise the importance of parental involvement and emotional support during the care of hospitalised children. Future studies to identify enablers and barriers related to the implementation of FCC are needed.

References

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