OC40 – Family participation in caring for hospitalized children – nurses' perspectives

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Theme: Professional issues

Keywords: Hospitalized child, negotiation, paediatric nurse, partnership care.

Aim: To understand nurses' perspective about the presence and participation of parents/caregivers during child's hospitalization.

Method: Quantitative, descriptive and exploratory study. Data collection in 2011 through questionnaire.

Results: The sample comprised 146 nurses that work in paediatric wards in five different hospitals in the North of Portugal; aged between 23 to 59 years old; 93.1% were female; the average professional time was 10.7 years with 9.4 years of professional practice in an inpatient paediatric ward; 89% recognize the importance of parents/caregivers staying at hospital all day with their children during hospitalization; 63.4% always promote the involvement of parents/caregivers in the basic care; 42.5% involved them in more complex care; 9.6% didn't have the habit of explaining the nursing care to the parents before performing them.

Conclusions: It is important that nurses recognize the benefits of effectively involving parents/caregivers in the care, negotiation and decision-making process regarding the child's care.

OC41 – Families of children with Down syndrome: a cross-cultural study

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Theme: Cross-cultural nursing.

Keywords: Adaptation, Down syndrome, family, family factors, resiliency.

The birth of a child with Down syndrome (DS) is a life-changing event for families. However, many families adapt successfully and some even thrive. The purpose of this cross-cultural study was to identify family factors associated with family functioning in three age-based groups of families. 1,107 parents from 6 countries completed an online survey guided by the Resiliency Model of Family Stress, Adjustment and Adaptation. For all three groups, family functioning was better with greater affirmative communication and greater hardiness,