

Thesis Title Needs of Families who have Members Admitted to Critical Care Units: Perceptions of Families and Nurses in Central Java, Indonesia

Author Mrs. Nina Indriyawati

Major Program Nursing Science

Academic Year 2004

Abstract

This descriptive comparative study aimed to identify the levels of needs of families who had members admitted to critical care units perceived by family members and nurses, and to examine the differences of the perception between family members and nurses. Two referral hospitals and three district hospitals in Central Java were selected. The subjects included 98 families who had members admitted to critical care units and 98 critical care nurses. The subjects were selected by using non-probability convenience sampling. Data were obtained by face-to-face interview lasting 30-40 minutes in case of family members and by a written questionnaire in case of the nurses. Modified Critical Care Family Needs Inventory was used for assessing the family members and nurses. The content validity of both instrument was tested by three experts and the reliability was obtained by Cronbach's alpha coefficient with values of .89 and .93, respectively. The data were analyzed by using descriptive statistics, independent t-test, and ANOVA.

The result of this study shows that the mean level of family members' perceptions on family needs was 161.13 ($SD = 14.21$) indicating high family needs. Families who had members admitted to critical care units perceived the mean scores of nearly all dimensions of the family needs at the high level: assurance, proximity, information, and support, but comfort needs were perceived at the moderate level. On the other hand, nurses perceived family needs at the moderate level. The mean level of nurses' perceptions on family needs was 149.34 ($SD = 14.66$). They scored at the high level on assurance needs followed by needs for information, support, comfort, and proximity at the moderate level. The family members of critically ill patients and critical care nurses reported significantly different levels in terms of their perceptions of needs for assurance, proximity, information and support ($t = -5.72, p < .001$).

The findings of this study support the notion that the differences between family members' and nurses' perceptions on family needs may contribute to the unmet intervention provided by nurses.