Intensive care unit nurses’ perceptions, perceived barriers and knowledge level related to communication of palliative care to patients, families and caregivers.

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TOPIC
Integration of palliative care to specific settings

RESEARCH QUESTION
What is the perception of ICU bedside nurses involvement in palliative care communication and what are the barriers to providing palliative care information to ICU patients in an urban hospital in Northeast Ohio?

PROBLEM AND BACKGROUND
- National initiatives are in place to integrate palliative care into the ICU settings to improve quality at end of life and decrease health care costs.
- ICU nurses report challenges in understanding and initiating palliative care conversations in the clinical ICU settings.
- Aultman Palliative Care Team wanted to assist nursing in integrating palliative care in the ICU.

METHODS
- This modified replication study used a convenience sample of 256 ICU nurses.
  - Inclusion
  - Direct Care ICU nurses were emailed an anonymous online survey.

CONCLUSIONS
Mean responses of all nurses revealed ICU nurses believe they are able to discuss goals of care with patients and families, but are often unsure of their role in discussing Palliative Care. Nurses feel uncomfortable initiating a Palliative Care conversation if the physician has not discussed prognosis with the patient.

FUTURE IMPLICATIONS
This data is valuable in determining the learning needs and comfort level of the ICU nurses participating in palliative care discussions. This research data has been shared with the ICUs. Each unit is defining personalized educational and process improvement plans to improve ICU nurse comfort and participation in palliative care discussions. This will aid in increased support of patients and families who are eligible and could benefit from palliative care after or during ICU admissions.
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RESULTS

Please rate your level of agreement with the following potential barriers to your involvement in discussion with families and clinicians about patient prognosis, goals of care and palliative care

Please rate your level of confidence to perform each of the following

CONCLUSIONS
Mean responses of all nurses revealed ICU nurses believe they are able to discuss goals of care with patients and families, but are often unsure of their role in discussing Palliative Care. Nurses feel uncomfortable initiating a Palliative Care conversation if the physician has not discussed prognosis with the patient.

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