

30th World Congress on

ADVANCED NURSING PRACTICE

September 04-06, 2017 | Edinburgh, Scotland

How nursing support for patients' family members concerning surrogate decision-making for life-sustaining treatment of patients in medical emergency care center should be is yet unclarified

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Background: Recently, nursing support for surrogate decision-making for life-sustaining treatment by patients' family members during hospitalization receives extensive attention, as well as in medical emergency care center. Yet its appropriate way has not been discussed sufficiently.

Aim: The aim of this study was to specify future challenges for its research by discussion about how nursing support for patients' family members concerning surrogate decision-making for life-sustaining treatment should be in medical emergency care center. Therefore, the factors of the difficulty should be specified firstly, which will be basis of the future nursing support for surrogate decision-making by patients' families. Construction of concrete nursing support is thought to be most important challenge.

Methods: Based on the tentative theories shown by previous studies and well-known facts, the author, experts, and clinical nurses in critical care discussed the future challenge of research about support for patients' family members concerning surrogate decision-making for life-sustaining treatment of patients in medical emergency care center.

Results: The following four challenges were specified through discussion. 1) To specify the difficulties in supporting for discussion about concrete nursing action or support, 2) To clarify the environmental factors which hamper the support in order to arrange the environmental settings, 3) To invent concrete support which is practicable for nurses who don't have enough time, and 4) To implement invented concrete nursing support in clinic, which gives back the concrete case with educational function.

Discussion: Many nurses are willing to make support for surrogate decision-making, however they have difficulty putting it into practice.

Biography

Sadami Momiyama, after gaining experience as a General Emergency/Intensive Care Nurse, completed the Master's course at Graduate School of Nursing, Jichi Medical University in Japan. While working as Certified Nurse Specialist in Critical Care Nursing (CNS), he teaches Adult Nursing energetically in university. His main research field is clinical nursing science, nursing support for patients' family members concerning surrogate decision-making.

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