Bridging the Gap: Identify Myths and Misconceptions About Involving Patients and Family Members in Care

A Gap Analysis to Engage and Empower Patients and Family Members

Use the following scales to evaluate how consistently your unit applies the evidence-based components of the ABCDE bundle, and determine how involved families are in the care of patients in your unit. Identify any myths and misconceptions that may be barriers to providing patient- and family-centered care.

1. How consistently does your unit apply the components of the ABCDE bundle?

Never | Always

Need help getting there?
- Evaluate current baseline knowledge of the ABCDE bundle; include all members of the interprofessional team
- Determine a unit champion to support implementation of the bundle elements
- Gather a team to develop a resource toolkit for each bundle element. Elements might include:
  - Assess, prevent, and manage pain—Include instructions on appropriate use of the pain assessment tools used in your facility
  - Both spontaneous awakening trials and spontaneous breathing trials—Algorithms and assessment tools
  - Choice of analgesia and sedation—Appropriate tools for assessing levels of sedation; literature describing pain and sedation management for your patient population
  - Delirium: assess, prevent, and manage—Patient assessment tools and instructions for use
  - Exercise and early mobility—Patient assessment tools and inservicing with the physical and occupational therapists to prevent occupational injury
  - Family engagement and empowerment—Brochures and resources for families, including descriptions of the ICU environment, equipment, recognition of delirium, inclusion in patient care

Resources:
- Tools and Tactics
- AACN webinar: Adding "F": Integrating Family Throughout the ABCDE Bundle
- ICUdelirium.org
2. How frequently are family members involved with the care of patients in your unit (eg, the opportunity to witness codes or participate in rounds)?

| Never | Always |

Need help getting there?
- Review the literature regarding family presence in your patient population
- Assess attitudes of the interprofessional team about including patients and family members in care and care decisions
- Evaluate the current policy and practice regarding family presence on your unit
- Develop a rounding checklist that requests family members be present if available
- Engage in roleplaying education with staff
- Invite a family member who has been engaged in care to speak at a staff inservice
- Develop an instruction kit for families on how they can interact with the staff and participate in care

Resources:
- Tools and Tactics
- Resources to Integrate Patients and Family into Care: Engage and Empower!
- PICS Family Strategies in the ICU and Beyond
- AACN webinar: Adding "F": Integrating Family Throughout the ABCDE Bundle
3. How often do you hear members of the care team express concerns that family presence is a hindrance (eg, interferes with care, exhausts the patient, burdens families, and/or spreads infections)?

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<th>Never</th>
<th>Always</th>
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Need help getting there?

- Establish a project through the nursing council on your unit to assess the current attitudes of the interprofessional staff
- Review the literature regarding these issues for evidence to present when discussing the topic
- Consider developing this topic through a journal club
- Evaluate strategies to assess and intervene if and when any of these issues do arise with family members
- Engage in roleplay education with staff members to increase comfort with including family members in care

Resources:

- Tools and Tactics
- Resources to Integrate Patients and Family into Care: Engage and Empower!
- AACN webinar: Adding "F": Integrating Family Throughout the ABCDE Bundle