

## **Preliminary results from The APPROPRICUS STUDY (APPROPRIATENESS of CARE in the ICUs)**

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## **Introduction**

Advances in medical technology enable more lives to be saved but sometimes may merely prolong the dying process and the suffering of patients and their families at the end of life. ICU healthcare workers who provide aggressive care to patients not benefiting from it, have moral distress and are at risk for burnout.

## **Objectives**

The primary objective of this study is to determine the prevalence of inappropriate or non-beneficial care in ICU patients as perceived by their ICU healthcare providers, as well as the reasons for this perception. Second, we want to determine which factors are associated with the perception of inappropriate care.

## **Methods**

A descriptive survey design is used. A single-day cross-sectional evaluation of perceptions of inappropriate care among 2162 ICU healthcare providers in 79 ICU centres in 10 European countries will take place on May 11<sup>th</sup> 2010. Questionnaires will be administered to ICU healthcare providers (nurses, head nurses, junior and senior ICU physicians) providing bedside care to adult ICU patients on that particular day.

In this study, inappropriate care is defined as a patient care situation that is similar to one or more of seven scenarios. These scenarios were created based on the literature and a multidisciplinary conference attended by experts in intensive care, geriatrics, and palliative care.

## **Results**

The cross-sectional study will take place on May 11<sup>th</sup> 2010. Preliminary results will be given at the ESICM conference.

## **Conclusion**

We have designed a one-day cross-sectional study to record inappropriate or non-beneficial care in European ICU's. Results will be available for the ESICM conference.

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