2nd Annual CHQ Research Symposium – Abstract Submissions



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Components of good end of life care within the paediatric intensive care setting – an online survey

TYPE OF RESEARCH

Clinical

AUTHORS AFFILIATION/S Anthony Herbert CHQ UQ Supratik Sen Gupta UQ

Philip Sargent

BACKGROUND

This study was undertaken to better understand the components of good end of life for children who are being cared for within the PICU. Cure rates from serious childhood illness are gradually improving every year. Despite this, there are still a small but significant number of children who will die within a Paediatric Intensive Care Unit.

OBJECTIVES

- The primary objective was to determine what the key aspects of End-of-Life-Care/palliative care in PICU as perceived by Health Professionals (including General Paediatricians)
- This project will result in a schema of components of care which can be used by health professionals within in the intensive care setting to assist with excellent end of life care.

METHOD

An online survey of health professionals was used to rank various components of palliative care within the PICU context. Survey participants could also suggest other components of care that had not already been thought of within the survey.

RESULTS

There were 108 respondents who took the survey. The survey group were multidisciplinary (medical 32.4%; nursing 44.44% and allied health 23.15%). There were also a variety of specialties represented in the survey (PICU 56.5%; Paediatric Palliative Care 17.4%; General Paediatrics 13.9% and Other 12.2%). The top 5 components of care ranked by the group included were identified by the interest groups after being ranked according to their importance. These included

 Discussion of a Management Plan 2. Sensitive, compassionate use of language 3. Discussion of End of Life care 4. Discussion of anticipated changes in the patient's condition 5. Discussion of the caregiver's understanding of the illness.

CONCLUSION

It is hoped that the schema for good end of life care represents a consensus from a large and diverse group of health professionals. This schema should assist in the day to day care of patients. Further, it should also be of benefit in education, research and quality activities.

OTHER AUTHORS

Liz Crowe

Greg Kelly

Karen Joy

Natalie Bradford