FAMILY PRESENCE DURING INVASIVE PROCEDURES
By Linda Bell, RN, MSN

In the past, tradition has not supported family presence during resuscitation efforts or during performance of invasive procedures. However, there is very little hard evidence to support this tradition. Research and evidence now tell us that including families, when appropriate, and providing them with the proper support during these experiences can have positive outcomes for the patient, family, and health care in general. This is not to say that all family members should be present during every situation. These decisions must be based on patient and family preference and availability of personnel to support the family.

Here’s what you can do:
- Evaluate the unit and hospital policy for family presence during resuscitation and invasive procedures.
- Survey the interprofessional staff regarding attitudes toward family presence.
- Discuss barriers and concerns about family presence during staff meetings.
- Include chaplaincy, risk management, and other disciplines in the conversation.
- Identify a champion for family presence on your unit.
- If feasible, bring family members back to the unit to talk about their experience of being included.
- Evaluate options for providing family presence on your unit: who, what, when, where, why, and how.
- Determine how family support during resuscitation or invasive procedures will be provided.
- Train appropriate staff on how to provide family support.
- Debrief staff after experiences where families have been included or excluded from being present.

Other helpful resources:

©2015 American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.4037/ajcc2015868

Based on material from and published as a supplement to the article by Twibell and colleagues, "Being There: Inpatients' Perceptions of Family Presence During Resuscitation and Invasive Cardiac Procedures" (American Journal of Critical Care. 2015;24:e108-e115).
Family Presence During Invasive Procedures
Linda Bell

Am J Crit Care 2015;24 539 10.4037/ajcc2015868
©2015 American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
Published online http://ajcc.aacnjournals.org/

Personal use only. For copyright permission information:
http://ajcc.aacnjournals.org/cgi/external_ref?link_type=PERMISSIONDIRECT

Subscription Information
http://ajcc.aacnjournals.org/subscriptions/

Information for authors
http://ajcc.aacnjournals.org/misc/ifora.xhtml

Submit a manuscript
http://www.editorialmanager.com/ajcc

Email alerts
http://ajcc.aacnjournals.org/subscriptions/etoc.xhtml