ICU Patients’ Rights: Critical Considerations

WFCCN CONGRESS 2015
GORDON SPEED
DUNEDIN, NEW ZEALAND
New Zealand
New Zealand

Dunedin
My Area
Fiordland national Park
Lonely Planet Top 500 list Number 17
Lake Wanaka
Lonely Planet Top 500 list Number 94
Stewart Island
Lonely Planet Top 500 list Number 125
Patients Rights:

Patient rights are those basic rule of conduct between patients and medical caregivers as well as the institutions and people that support them. A patient is anyone who has requested to be evaluated by or who is being evaluated by any healthcare professional. Mar 18, 2015

Patient Rights: Learn About HIPAA and Other Rules
www.emedicinehealth.com/patient_rights/article_em.htm
This talk is about:

Discussion on the rights of patients while in Intensive Care and some of the ethical considerations.

Introduction only. Not academic!
<table>
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<th>What sort of problems?</th>
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<td>Death?</td>
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<td>Consent?</td>
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<td>Age of consent?</td>
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<td>Research?</td>
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<td>Age?</td>
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<td>Organ donation?</td>
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<td>Access?</td>
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Ethical Framework:
Example from American Psychological Association:

- Principle A: Beneficence and Nonmaleficence
- Principle B: Fidelity and Responsibility
- Principle C: Integrity
- Principle D: Justice
- Principle E: Respect for People's Rights and Dignity
Other frameworks

Standards, Principles, Organisational Ethics etc.

Most organisations have an overall standard that is a statement of their ethical principle.

Vary greatly but many similarities
ICN Code of Ethics

http://www.icn.ch/who-we-are/code-of-ethics-for-nurses/
American Nurses Association

http://www.nursingworld.org/codeofethics
What happens in Dunedin Hospital?
Small Unit

300 bed hospital

12 beds, but staffed for six

Cardiac surgery, neurosurgery, paediatrics, trauma, etc.

Retrieval service – nurse and doctor on helicopter, referrals from large area

40 Full time equivalent nurses, 37 have a post graduate qualification in Intensive Care. 30% have 20 years+ experience in ICU

Most patients intubated so 1:1 nursing, separate High Dependency Unit
New Zealand – National Health and Disability Commissioner

Country wide for all people interacting with health services
List of ten rights with detailed explanations and now a case history of using them
New Zealand – Critical Care

New Zealand College of Critical Care Nurses

Standard Five: Ethics

Critical care nursing faces unique ethical challenges due to the acute and complex health needs and treatments of the critically ill patient.

From NZCCCN Standards for Critical Care Nursing Practice

Where do rights come in?

New Zealand Health and Disability Commissioner
What are the rights?

The Code of Rights gives you 10 rights. These are:

1. To be treated with respect.
2. To be treated fairly without pressure or discrimination.
3. The right to dignity and independence.
4. To receive a quality service and to be treated with care and skill.
5. To be given information that you can understand
6. To be given the information you need
7. To make your own decision about your care, and to change your mind.
8. To have a support person with you at most times.
9. To have all these rights apply if you are asked to take part in a research study or teaching session for training staff.
10. The right to complain and have your complaint taken seriously.
How do these apply to Intensive Care?

In New Zealand all standards apply to any patient – including those in Intensive Care.

HDC takes complaints from anyone and will decide to investigate if required. Investigations can lead to findings of being at fault.
Responsibilities

Patient responsibilities not mentioned in Code of Rights
Particular problems

Consent

Death and Organ Donation

Research
International Variations

Every country different – who controls standards in yours?
Ethical Dilemma

Ethical dilemmas, also known as moral dilemmas, are situations in which there is a choice to be made between two options, neither of which resolves the situation in an ethically acceptable fashion.

Ethical Dilemma Examples - Examples on YourDictionary
examples.yourdictionary.com/ethical-dilemma-examples.html
What do you do?

Study ethics?

Compare to the standards of your workplace or organisations standards

Discuss with colleagues, including senior staff

Refer to Ethics Committee if available
What questions do you have?
Kamsahmnida