

**Assisting the Acute Spinal injured Patient**

**Supporting the Family**

**for the**

**Smith and Nephew Forum**



---

**Orthopaedics**

## Impact of serious injury for the patient

- Missed information
- Impact of news
- Loss of self identity
- Re-evaluation of self



## Supporting Evidence



- Richmond, T., Thompson, Deatrick, J. & Kauder, D. (2000). Journey towards recovery following physical trauma., Journal of Advanced Nursing, Vol. 32 (6)., pp.1341-1347.

## Value of family support



- Increased growth
- Active participants
- Being there
- Getting informed

## Supporting Evidence

Meyers, T. et al. (2000) family presence during invasive procedures and resuscitation: The experience of family members, nurses and physicians. American Journal of Nursing, Vol. 100(20), pp. 32-43.



## Effects of Physical Trauma on family



- Potential to increase family stress
- May cause risk to family integrity
- Change in focus of family needed

## Supporting Evidence



- Lange, P. (2001) Family stress in the intensive unit. ,Critical Care Medicine., Vol. 29 (10), pp.2025-2026.
- Meyers, T., Eichhorn, D., Guzzetta, C., Clark, A., Klein, J., Taliaferro, E. & Calvin, A. (2000). Family presence during invasive procedures an resuscitation: The experience of family members, nurses and physicians. , American Journal of Nursing., Vol.100(2), pp. 32-43.

## Needs Identified for Families

- Anxiety reduction
- Support
- Information
- Presence





## Supporting Evidence

- Clarke, A. & Cooper, C. (2001). Psychosocial rehabilitation after disfiguring injury or disease: Investigating the training needs of specialist nurses. , Journal of Advanced Nursing., Vol. 34 (1),pp. 18-26.
- Meyers,T. et al. (2000) family presence during invasive procedures and resuscitation and physicians. American Journal of Nursing., Vol.100 (20,pp.32-43.



## More Supporting Evidence



Ptacek, J & Ellison, N. (2000). Health care providers' perspectives on breaking bad news to patients., Critical Care Nursing Quarterly., Vol. 23(2), pp. 51-59.

## Assessing how to involve the family



- History
- Family leaders
- How are health decisions made?
- Family problem solving techniques.

## Supporting Evidence



- Murrow, E. & Oglesby, F., (1996). Acute and chronic illness: similarities, differences and challenges., Orthopaedic Nursing., 15(5), pp.47-51.
- Ptacek, J & Ellison, N. (2000). Health care providers' perspectives on breaking bad news to patients., Critical Care Nursing Quarterly., Vol. 23(2), pp. 51-59.

## Implementation

- Acknowledge family's needs
- Be aware of how much the patient wants the family to be involved
- Deal with emotional aspects of the situation
- Give information



## Benefits of family support



Empowerment

## Summary of Initiatives



- Flexibility of boarders
- Daily multidisciplinary meetings
- Spinal Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Orthopaedic Website
- Catastrophic News

## Our thanks to

Our many authors who we have  
references separately

Consultation with the Orthopaedic  
Senior Nurse Team

Orthopaedic Theatre Charge  
Nurse Angelina Parkin

Ashley Du Toit- Orthotics APH

