

Question: For parents of NICU babies how effective is adequate nurse to parent communication compared to nurses who don't communicate well with parents in decreasing anxiety of caring for the child alone when it comes time to discharge?

Answer: "Parent communication is a critical determinant of how parents cope with their infant's illness and their own experience, and of how satisfied they are with the care their infant receives" (Hall et al, 2019). Satisfactory communication from nurses and doctors to parents of NICU babies has shown a decrease in stressors and anxiety and an increase in medical knowledge about their child for better home care after discharge. This also makes them feel more cared about, taken seriously, and a reduction in feelings of guilt. Ineffective or conflicting information from staff can leave parents to feel hopeless or guilty. This can also cause anxiety about the medical condition of their child (Labrie et al., 2021). This all concludes to communicating with parents, involving them in care and giving them autonomy in decision making about their child will have a better outcome for parents to care for their infant after discharge (Weiss & Cook, 2018).

This information can be used to better understand that parents of NICU babies need better communication (which includes staff to staff communication to lessen miscommunication or confusion) and it will have a positive effect on the patient.

Citations:

Primary:

Labrie, N. H. M., Veenendaal, N. R. van, Ludolph, R. A., Ket, J. C. F., Schoor, S. R. D. van der, & Kempen, A. A. M. W. van. (2021, May 6). *Effects of parent-provider communication during infant hospitalization in the NICU on parents: A systematic review with meta-synthesis and narrative synthesis*. Patient Education and Counseling. Retrieved November 3, 2021, from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0738399121002883>.

Secondary:

Hall, S. L., Famuyide, M. E., Saxton, S. N., Moore, T. A., Mosher, S., Sorrells, K., Milford, C. A., & Craig, J. (2019). Improving Staff Knowledge and Attitudes Toward Providing Psychosocial Support to NICU Parents Through an Online Education Course. *Advances in neonatal care : official journal of the National Association of Neonatal Nurses*, 19(6), 490–499.

<https://doi.org/10.1097/ANC.0000000000000649>

Weiss, E. M., & Cook, N. (2018, May 1). *Preferences for parent-centered decision making in neonatal intensive care*. Characteristics Associated With Preferences for Parent-Centered Decision Making in Neonatal Intensive Care. Retrieved November 3, 2021, from

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/article-abstract/2675286>.