



**Care, compassion and competence in
critical care: A qualitative exploration of
nurses' experience of family witnessed
resuscitation**

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The Essence of the Study

- **To gain insight into nurses' experiences of FWR**
- **Nurse recruitment to the study**
- **Data collection**
- **Data analysis**
- **Phenomenological approach**
- **Van Manen's framework for isolating thematic statements**



Emergent Themes

Challenging Expertise

“It was new, not something I had ever seen before...It made me feel like crying...When she was saying, come on dad, It was a horrible situation really”.(P2).

Bonding

“ There has got to be this feeling of closeness to the person...This is a vital moment, because obviously this is the last time that they are going to see this person”. (P4).



Emergent Themes

Through the Relatives Eyes

“I felt I was seeing it from the families perspective, rather as a trained professional...It was really distressing to think; oh my god the family are seeing this as well”. (P3).

Balancing Technology and Humanism

The essence of nursing in critical care



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Conclusion

- An insight into Critical Care nurses experiences of family witnessed resuscitation.
- Care, compassion and competency are inextricably bound.
- Presence of family in cardiac arrest scenarios evokes feelings of compassion empathy and humanism.
- Uncovering the emotional effects on family witnessed resuscitation, can contribute to a wider understanding of nursing practice in critical care.



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Intensive and
Critical Care
Nursing

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Care, compassion and competence in critical care: A qualitative exploration of nurses' experience of family witnessed resuscitation

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Accepted 26 April 2014

KEYWORDS

Care;
Compassion;
Competence;
Critical care nurses;
Critical care nursing;
Family witnessed resuscitation;
FWR;
Qualitative enquiry

Summary This exploratory study was grounded in a local initiative promoting family witnessed resuscitation in the critical care units of a regional cardio-thoracic centre in the United Kingdom (UK). Research in this field has focused on the perceived benefits, or otherwise, of family involvement, but little is known about the impact this has on critical care nurses or their practice. This study aimed to gain insights into nurses' experience of family witnessed resuscitation and identify any implications for critical care practices.

The study employed a phenomenological approach and interviewed six nurses who had been involved in family witnessed resuscitation. Data from the transcribed interviews were analysed thematically and organised into descriptive categories which reflected the nursing experience of these resuscitation events.

The three thematic categories generated by data analysis illustrate the challenges nurses faced in seeking to balance compassionate care and technical competence in emergency situations on critical care units. They also showed how nurses sought to reconcile unsettling emotions with their professional practice and responsibilities.

The findings of this study are consistent with what is already known about the challenges of critical care nursing, but suggest that more research is needed to understand the practical and emotional complexities of family witnessed resuscitation.
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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.iccn.2014.04.006>
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Please cite this article in press as: Monks J, Flynn M. Care, compassion and competence in critical care: A qualitative exploration of nurses' experience of family witnessed resuscitation. *Intensive Crit Care Nurs* (2014), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.iccn.2014.04.006>