



Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

Elsevier hereby grants permission to make all its COVID-19-related research that is available on the COVID-19 resource centre - including this research content - immediately available in PubMed Central and other publicly funded repositories, such as the WHO COVID database with rights for unrestricted research re-use and analyses in any form or by any means with acknowledgement of the original source. These permissions are granted for free by Elsevier for as long as the COVID-19 resource centre remains active.



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Journal of Pediatric Nursing

journal homepage: www.pediatricnursing.org

Behind the pandemic: Analysis of the article on Al-Motlaq et al. (2021) "Position statement of the international network for child and family centered care: Child and family centered care during the COVID19 pandemic"



Dear Editor,

Recently, we read the paper published in Journal of Pediatric Nursing entitled "Position statement of the international network for child and family centered care: Child and family centered care during the COVID19 pandemic" (2021). The aim of this article is present the position of the International Network for Child and Family Centered Care (INCFCC) that the COVID19 pandemic crisis restricts. It is assumed in this position "(...) *the families' presence and participation holds more benefits than risks to the health of childre, their families, and the health care (...)* "during pandemic scenario (Al-Motlaq et al., 2021,140).

As a group of researchers on child and family care we write this letter to congratulate the authors and the Journal for this notable work that which highlights the harm that results from limiting family childcare. The reading of this document brought a very elucidative and appropriate approach to the various constraints which are being felt, in the context of the pandemic, both by the child and parents, as well as by the health professionals, and brought important contributions on strategies and recommendations to minimize this problematic.

Recent international research about this specific topic have nominated psychological implications that the pandemic itself triggers in parents - anxiety, uncertainty, worry, concern, frustration, fear, stress and, in more, severe cases depression and post-traumatic stress (Fong & Iarocci, 2021; Russel et al., 2020; Suffren et al., 2021). It can also hinder the bond that is established between the infant and the parents in the neonatal period, which can compromise the promotion of breastfeeding, which is known to be one of the idealized practices for infant feeding and nutrition, with numerous short- and long-term benefits for the infant and mother (Cohen et al., 2018). In this regard, the authors of this article also found that the limitation of visits or of accompanying the child, which will have implications on the family's participation in the child's care leading to feelings of separation anxiety and psychological and emotional distress (Al-Motlaq et al., 2021).

So, how can we guarantee the inclusion of the family in the nursing care of children and young people in hospital settings?

The philosophy of child, youth and family-centered care (CFCC) is the vision of pediatric nursing care and the therapeutic communication a key instrument to nursing practice (Loureiro et al., 2021; Smith, 2018), and Al-Motlaq et al. (2021) have write in this position statement the need to meet staffing levels, access to personal protective equipment

and communication with support the technology with family during pandemic crisis.

Nurses knows that the presence of the family with the child throughout the hospitalization facilitates the child's involvement and participation in the care received, reducing levels of stress and anxiety for the child, with the parents' absence. The authors also describe this issue and their implications in health professional education, which an opportunity to create new communication approaches in hospital setting between nurses, children and parents (Al-Motlaq et al., 2021; Ferrari et al., 2021). The strategies used by nurses wearing masks and other personal protective equipment to facilitate verbal and non-verbal communication include involve family (parents/caregivers) are explain to parents the role of play in these circumstances; use a technological dispositive of communication; promoting parental support among other strategies (Al-Motlaq et al., 2021; Carter et al., 2021; Ferrari et al., 2021).

This article underlines the importance of maintaining the CFCC through the implementation of protective measures and safe circuits for the child, family and health professionals.

Author contributions

Conceptualization and formal analysis: CF, ZC
Supervision, validation and visualization: ZC.
Writing - original draft: CF, ZC.
Writing - review & editing: EN, ML, ZC.

Funding

No funding.

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

References

- Al-Motlaq, M., et al. (2021). Position statement of the international network for child and family centered care: Child and family centered care during the COVID19 pandemic. *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, 61, 140–143 Accessed at: 27/07/2021. Available in: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedn.2021.05.002>.
- Carter, B., Willis, T., & Knackstedt, A. (2021). Neonatal family-centred care in a pandemic. *Journal of Perinatology*, 19, 1–3 Accessed at: 02/08/2021. Available in: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41372-021-00976-0>.
- Cohen, S., et al. (2018). Factors associated with breastfeeding initiation and continuation: A meta-analysis. *The Journal of Pediatrics*, 203, 190–196 Accessed at: 27/07/2021. Available in: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpeds.2018.08.008>.
- Ferrari, G., et al. (2021). The impact of personal protective equipment and social distancing on communication and relation between nurses, caregivers and children: A descriptive qualitative study in a maternal and child health hospital. *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, 00, 1–12 Accessed at: 02/08/2021. Available in: <https://doi.org/10.1111/jocn.15857>.
- Fong, V., & Iarocci, G. (2021). Child and family outcomes following pandemics: A systematic review and recommendations on COVID-19 policies. *Journal of Pediatric*

- Psychology, 45(10), 1124–1143 Accessed at: 27/07/2021. Available in: <https://doi.org/10.1093/jpepsy/jsaa092>.
- Loureiro, F., Antunes, A., & Charepe, Z. (2021). Theoretical nursing conceptions in hospitalized child care: Scoping review. *Revista Brasileira de Enfermagem*, 74(3), 1–11 Accessed at: 27/07/2021. Available in: <https://doi.org/10.1590/0034-7167-2020-0265>.
- Russel, B., et al. (2020). Initial challenges of caregiving during COVID-19: Caregiver burden, mental health, and the parent-child relationship. *Child Psychiatry and Human Development*, 4, 1–12 Accessed at: 27/07/2021. Available in: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10578-020-01037-x>.
- Smith, W. (2018). Concept analysis of family-centered care of hospitalized pediatric patients. *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, 42, 57–64 Accessed at: 27/07/2021. Available in: <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18041786>.
- Suffren, et al. (2021). Relations between child and parent fears and changes in family functioning related to COVID-19. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(4), 1–12 Accessed at: 27/07/2021. Available in: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijerph.2018.06.014>.

Cláudia Ferreira

Master Nursing Student, Hospital Professor Doutor Fernando Fonseca,
Pediatric Emergency Service, Lisbon, Portugal
E-mail address: claudiasferreira0@gmail.com

Elisabete Nunes, PhD

Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Institute of Health Sciences, Center for
Interdisciplinary Research in Health (CIIS), Palma de Cima, Lisbon, Portugal
E-mail address: elisabetenunes@ucp.pt

Margarida Lourenço, PhD

Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Institute of Health Sciences, Palma de
Cima, Lisbon, Portugal
E-mail address: margaridalourenco@ucp.pt

Zaida Charepe, PhD

Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Institute of Health Sciences, Center for
Interdisciplinary Research in Health (CIIS), Palma de Cima, Lisbon, Portugal
*Corresponding author.

E-mail address: zaidacharepe@ucp.pt

5 August 2021