### **Evidence of ICU Diaries: Patients (Peter)**

- · Reduction of PTSD, depression (anxiety: tendency)
- · Better understanding of events, dreams and rehab
- · Improved coherence

#### Limitations:

- Heterogenous use (photos y/n, duration, content, timepoint)
- Some avoid to read
- No harm, but emotional journey

#### Guidelines:

PICS: diaries ought to be used in and after critical care

Bev Ewens, Peter Nydahl, July 2025



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## **Evidence of ICU Diaries: Families (Bev)**

- · No general impact on PTSD, depression, anxiety
- · Better coping
- · Keeping relationship
- · Posttraumatic growth
- · Improved griefing

#### Limitations

· Heterogenous use

#### Guidelines:

 SCCM family-centered care: "We suggest providing ICU diaries for families of ICU patients." (conditional recommendation, low certainty)



# **Evidence of ICU Diaries: Team (Peter)**

- Humanisation of Critical Care
- Improved Care
- More satisfaction
- · Improved reflection about care
- Conflicts and barriers
- Closeness vs professionalism

#### Limitations:

- Subjective evaluations
- · Heterogenous use
- Reduced nurse resources

Author	Country	Included	Using
		ICU	diaries
Egerod 2007	Denmark	48	40%
Nydahl 2010 <sup>d,e</sup>	Germany	120	0%
Akerman 2010	Sweden	85	75%
Gjengedal 2010e	Norway	70	44%
Nydahl 2014 <sup>d,e</sup>	Germany	221	19%
Nair 2014 <sup>c</sup>	Australia	194	19%
Heindl 2016	Austria	178	7%
Kleinpell 2018 <sup>a</sup>	Worldwide	345	33%
Hendriks 2019	Netherlands	79	87%
Holme 2020e	Norway	39	61%
Lynch 2020b	UK, Ireland	30	43%
Brauchle 2021 <sup>a</sup>	Austria, Germany, Switzerland,	385	28%
	Lux.		
Liu 2021 <sup>a</sup>	Worldwide	135	19%
Tabah 2021	Australia/NZ	95	28%

a) Recruitment bias likely, b) Paediatric ICU only c) Nurses (not ICU) were surveyed, d) ICU & Nurses surveyed, e) Germany and Norway had repeated measurements

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Report on the Third International **Intensive Care Unit Diary** Conference

Peter Nydahl, PhD, MScN, RN Ingrid Egerod, PhD, MSN, RN Megan M, Hosey, PhD Dale M, Needham, MD, PhD Christina Jones, PhD

## **Barriers & Solutions (Bev)**

Country	Barriers	Solutions
Australia	Lack of knowledge about PICS	Guidelines, feedback from patients, research
Chile	Completely unknown	Collaboration with Chilean SCCM, Translation and provision of educational materials
Germany	Lack of staff/time	Research (3-7 min/entry), priorization, feasible if 50% of staff joins; diaries written by families
	Bureaucratic difficulties	Templates for diary policies, review of written diaries Data protection: diary not part of patients' records
Sweden	Balance between professionalism, empathy, and privacy	Follow-up service by ICU nurses > feedback to the team, increasing satisfaction, culture change
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Lack of team work	Policies, writing examples, rules for photos, experts
United States	Writing style / language	Writing examples, staff training for writing, experts
	Legal issues	Policy: diary is not part of chart; diaries enable transparency & communication > lower risk

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