BARRIERS TO CARE
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NURSES AND SOCIAL WORKERS

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
END-OF-LIFE CARE RESEARCH PROGRAM

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BARRIERS TO CARE

We know that there may be barriers to helping a patient and family in the ICU. In this survey, we have listed some possible barriers you may have encountered working with this family. Please circle one answer for each item.

Barriers in working with families in the ICU:

1. Not enough nursing staff/heavy patient load               YES  NO

2. Patient too sick to allow interaction with family         YES  NO

3. Conflict with physician(s)                              YES  NO

4. Physician/s discouraged nurse/staff communication with family on certain topics  YES  NO

5. Lack of support from nurse/social work colleagues for family communication. YES  NO

6. Outside the scope of my nursing/social work practice     YES  NO

7. Unit’s visitation policy allows little time with family   YES  NO

8. Family does not visit or call                            YES  NO

9. Lack of communication between attending physician and nursing/social work staff  YES  NO

10. The family is angry                                     YES  NO

11. The family has unrealistic expectations of medical treatment YES  NO

12. Personal difficulty with this family                    YES  NO

13. Lack of a private place for communication to occur      YES  NO

14. Language difficulties                                   YES  NO

15. Other barriers? If yes, please specify ____________________________

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