**Supplementary Table 2: Participation of the nursing staff and other caregivers outside ICU and overall caregivers’ satisfaction of the current practices**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Physicians (n=149)</th>
<th>Nurses (n=320)</th>
<th>p values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Which members of the nursing staff participate in physicians’ rounds in your ICU?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The head nurse:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>usually</td>
<td>76 (51.0%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rarely</td>
<td>38 (25.5%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>never</td>
<td>35 (23.5%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The assistant head nurse:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>usually</td>
<td>58 (39.2%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rarely</td>
<td>47 (31.8%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>never</td>
<td>43 (29.1%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The nurse:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>usually</td>
<td>78 (53.1%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rarely</td>
<td>41 (27.9%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Count (%)</td>
<td>Value</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>never</td>
<td>28 (19.0%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The nurse assistant:</td>
<td></td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>usually</td>
<td>31 (22.1%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rarely</td>
<td>40 (28.6%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>never</td>
<td>69 (49.3%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In your opinion, does optimal operation of your ICU require regular participation in physicians’ rounds of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The head nurse:</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>absolutely</td>
<td>105 (70.5%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>possibly</td>
<td>34 (22.8%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
<td>8 (5.4%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no opinion</td>
<td>2 (1.3%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The assistant head nurse:</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>absolutely</td>
<td>62 (42.5%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>possibly</td>
<td>59 (40.4%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
<td>18 (12.3%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no opinion</td>
<td>7 (4.8%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The nurse:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>NA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>absolutely</td>
<td>116 (78.9%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>possibly</td>
<td>27 (18.4%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
<td>3 (2.0%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no opinion</td>
<td>1 (0.7%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The nurse assistant:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>NA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>absolutely</td>
<td>33 (23.4%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>possibly</td>
<td>60 (42.6%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
<td>41 (29.1%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no opinion</td>
<td>7 (5.0%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Do you believe that doctors provide the nursing staff with information on the course of their patients on a daily basis?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>NA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>always</td>
<td>28 (18.8%)</td>
<td>32 (10.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Always</td>
<td>39 (26.4%)</td>
<td>14 (4.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usually</td>
<td>64 (43.2%)</td>
<td>63 (19.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>35 (23.6%)</td>
<td>111 (34.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarely</td>
<td>10 (6.8%)</td>
<td>100 (31.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>31 (9.7%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you believe that doctors take into account the opinion of the nursing staff on the course of their patients? \(<0.001\)

Do you consider that the desire for information on the part of the nursing staff is usually: \(0.769\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Considerable</td>
<td>78 (52.3%)</td>
<td>174 (54.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate</td>
<td>64 (43.0%)</td>
<td>134 (42.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absent</td>
<td>7 (4.7%)</td>
<td>11 (3.4%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If the desire for information on the part of the nursing staff is, in your opinion, inadequate, is the reason:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Your opinion</th>
<th>Other institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>excessive nursing staff workload</td>
<td>37 (50.1%)</td>
<td>93 (69.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>excessive physician workload</td>
<td>5 (7.6%)</td>
<td>3 (2.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the organization of the department</td>
<td>23 (34.8%)</td>
<td>33 (24.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other</td>
<td>1 (1.5%)</td>
<td>4 (3.0%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In your opinion, is the desire for information on the part of the nursing staff usually: (Answer all the items)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Your opinion</th>
<th>Other institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spontaneous</td>
<td>121 (81.8%)</td>
<td>275 (87.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elicited by the head nurses</td>
<td>57 (39.3%)</td>
<td>117 (37.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elicited by the physicians</td>
<td>96 (66.2%)</td>
<td>130 (42.2%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you feel the information the nursing staff has about the patient during treatment limitation discussions is USUALLY sufficient: (Check a single answer)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Your opinion</th>
<th>Other institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yes</td>
<td>61 (41.5%)</td>
<td>129 (40.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
<td>76 (51.7%)</td>
<td>149 (46.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no opinion</td>
<td>10 (6.8%)</td>
<td>41 (12.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do doctors give the nursing staff’s members the opportunity to state their opinion about patients (ICU rounds or informal discussions)?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yes</td>
<td>121 (81.8%)</td>
<td>162 (51.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
<td>26 (17.6%)</td>
<td>134 (42.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no opinion</td>
<td>1 (0.7%)</td>
<td>18 (5.7%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You feel that the amount of information the nursing staff REQUEST is USUALLY: (Check a single answer) &lt;0.001

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>large</td>
<td>47 (31.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>84 (56.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small</td>
<td>18 (12.1%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You feel that the nursing staff requests for information are USUALLY: (Check a single answer) NA

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>spontaneous</td>
<td>50 (30.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>encouraged by others (colleagues and others)</td>
<td>11 (7.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>does not exist</td>
<td>5 (3.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>upon his/her character</td>
<td>81 (55.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does a psychologist attend the ethical discussions in your ICU?</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you feel that asking professionals who are not involved in patient care to participate in the process of deciding to limit treatment would be beneficial? (Check a single answer)</td>
<td>53 (36.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If yes, do you feel that the following should participate in the process of deciding to limit treatment: (tick one or more answers)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>one or more other physicians</td>
<td>28 (18.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an ethics committee</td>
<td>37 (23.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a psychologist</td>
<td>44 (28.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you felt that regular participation of professionals not involved in patient care in processes other than deciding to limit treatment would be beneficial? (Check a single</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Answer</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yes</td>
<td>55 (37.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
<td>75 (50.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no opinion</td>
<td>18 (12.2%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AFTER a decision to limit treatment: (Answer both questions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You feel isolated</td>
<td>5 (3.4%)</td>
<td>36 (11.4%)</td>
<td>0.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You have the opportunity to talk about what happened</td>
<td>134 (91.8%)</td>
<td>213 (67.0%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have the opportunity to talk about what happened, this arises as part of: (Check a single answer)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spontaneous discussions</td>
<td>72 (49.0%)</td>
<td>271 (88.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions that are organized in the ICU</td>
<td>75 (51.0%)</td>
<td>36 (11.7%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Furthermore, apart from treatment limitation discussions, does your ICU have discussion groups?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>No Opinion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>54 (37.5%)</td>
<td>91 (28.6%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66 (45.8%)</td>
<td>165 (51.9%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 (16.7%)</td>
<td>62 (19.5%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you feel that discussion about ethics in your ICU should be given more attention or should be approached in a different way? (Check a single answer)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no change</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more attention</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>different</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no opinion</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you feel that regular participation of professionals not involved in patient care in processes other than deciding to limit treatment would be beneficial? (Check a single answer)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yes</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no opinion</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As a conclusion, are you satisfied with the life-sustaining treatments procedures currently used in your ICU? (Check a single answer)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yes</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no opinion</td>
<td>6 (4.1%)</td>
<td>58 (18.4%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>