

**Supplementary Table 3: Communication with the family and fear of legal consequences**

Questions	Physicians (n=149)	Nurses (n=320)	p values
Do you feel the family SHOULD BE INFORMED of decisions to limit treatment? (Check a single answer)			<b>0.001</b>
yes	99 (66.9%)	257 (81.1%)	
no	32 (21.6%)	32 (10.1%)	
no opinion	17 (11.5%)	28 (8.8%)	
If you feel the family should be informed, do you feel the family should be TOLD EVERYTHING (type of treatment limited, criteria...)? (Check a single answer)			<b>&lt;0.001</b>
yes	66 (51.6%)	228 (77.8%)	
no	51 (39.8%)	39 (13.3%)	
no opinion	11 (8.6%)	26 (13.3%)	
If you feel the family SHOULD NOT BE TOLD EVERYTHING, is the USUAL reason (Check a single answer)			0.138
that full information would cause distress to the family	7 (7.1%)	18 11.3%)	

inability of the family to understand the medical details	77 (77.8%)	118 (73.8%)	
confidentiality	0 (0%)	7 (4.4%)	
fear of litigation	12 (12.1%)	10 (6.3%)	
the nature of the relation with the family	2 (2.0%)	5 (3.1%)	
other	1 (1.0%)	2 (1.3%)	
If you feel the family SHOULD BE informed, do you want the nurse to attend the family meetings?			<b>&lt;0.001</b>
yes	72 (52.9%)	104 (35.7%)	
no	39 (28.7%)	162 (55.7%)	
no opinion	25 (18.4%)	25 (8.6%)	
Based on your knowledge, do you feel the family is ACTUALLY informed of decisions to limit treatment? (Check a single answer)			<b>0.024</b>
yes	26 (17.7%)	62 (19.9%)	
no	105 (71.4%)	186 (59.8%)	
no opinion	16 (10.9%)	63 (20.3%)	
If you believe the families are NOT FULLY INFORMED, is the reason (Check a single			0.643

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answer)

that full information would cause distress to the family	10 (6.9%)	32 (10.4%)
inability of the family to understand the medical details	103 (71.5%)	212 (68.6%)
confidentiality	2 (1.4%)	6 (1.9%)
fear of litigation	25 (17.4%)	46 (14.9%)
poor quality of relationships with families	4 (2.8%)	8 (2.6%)
other	0 (0%)	4 (1.3%)

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Do you believe nurses should share the responsibility of the decision with the physician or physicians during a discussion on treatment limitation, including legal responsibility?

**0.019**

yes	62 (41.6%)	99 (31.0%)
no	78 (52.3%)	179 (56.1%)
no opinion	9 (6.0%)	41 (12.9%)

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If NO, i.e., if you believe NURSES SHOULD NOT share the responsibility, do you feel their role in the discussion should be (Check a single answer)

**0.009**

to make your opinion heard clearly	64 (82.1%)	118 (65.9%)
to listen without speaking	0 (0%)	19 (10.6%)

to not participate	10 (12.8%)	34 (19.0%)
no opinion	4 (5.1%)	8 (4.5%)
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When you make a DFLST, do you worry that this might lead to litigation?		NA
yes	80 (54.4%)	NA
no	60 (40.8%)	NA
no opinion	7 (4.8%)	NA
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If Yes, does your concern about litigation influence the amount of information		NA
- you give to the patient?	38 (47.5%)	NA
- you give to the family?	65 (81.3%)	NA
- you give to the nursing staff?	31 (38.8%)	NA
- you record in the medical chart?	48 (60.0%)	NA
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