

What are the Beliefs and Attitudes of Nurses Towards Visitation While Restricting Family Members in an Intensive Care Unit During COVID-19

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this scholarly proposal was to evaluate the beliefs and attitudes of nurses towards visitation while restricting family members in the intensive care unit during COVID-19.

BACKGROUND/SIGNIFICANCE

Open visitation is defined as "unrestricted access of hospitalized patients to a chosen support person (eg: family member, friend, or trusted individual) who is integral to the provision of emotional and social support 24 hours a day; according to the patient's preferences, unless the support person infringes on the rights of others and their safety, or the support person's presence is medically or therapeutically contraindicated" (Family Visitation in the Intensive Care Unit. 2016, p.1)

An estimated 5 million patients will be admitted to the ICU requiring an increased acuity of care every year (Society of Critical Care Medicine, 2015)

With the sudden diagnosis and subsequent admission, the dynamics of the family may also change (Whitcomb, 2010, Fumis et al., 2015)

Visitation has become an important topic in the hospital setting and remains highly debatable.

Visitation gives families permission to visit with their loved ones any time of the day, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week (Yakubu et al., 2018; Monroe & Wofford, 2017)

Traditionally, nurses believed that visitation impeded patient care. Increased workload, loss of control and interruptions of patient care interfered with nursing care and cause disorganization (Athanasiou et al., 2014, Cappellini et al., 2014; Chapman et al., 2016)

In the past, increasing pressure from government agencies had organizations restructuring their healthcare policies to provide a more open visitation rather than a more restrictive policy (Cappellini et al., 2014)

A more flexible visitation policy have emerged in the last five decades until December 2019 when a novel virus called COVID-19 appeared (Qian et al., 2020)

Research Questions

- What are the beliefs and attitudes of nurses towards visitation while restricting family members in an intensive care unit pre COVID-19?
- What are the beliefs and attitudes of nurses towards visitation while restricting family members in an intensive care during COVID-19?

Objective

To develop an evidence-based practice guideline that will direct practice change of a visitation policy while inclusive of restricting family members

Nurses are at the forefront of transformational change and have a key role in designing, developing and implementing any new visitation policy (Riley et al., 2014; Chapman et al., 2016)

PROCESS /OUTCOMES

Research Design

- Quasi-experimental study (Pre and During COVID-19)

Methods

- Conducted a survey with two questionnaires pre and during COVID-19 via SurveyMonkey®
- Recruitment of a convenience sample of intensive care nurses
- Inclusion/exclusion criteria
- Demographic questionnaire - ten questions.
- Name of Instrument - "Beliefs and Attitudes Visitation Questionnaire" (BAVIQ) - 45 questions

Plan

- Obtained IRB approval from study institution & Regis College
- Obtained Informed Consent
- Collected data via SurveyMonkey®
- Consulted with a statistician
- Analyzed data

Data Collection

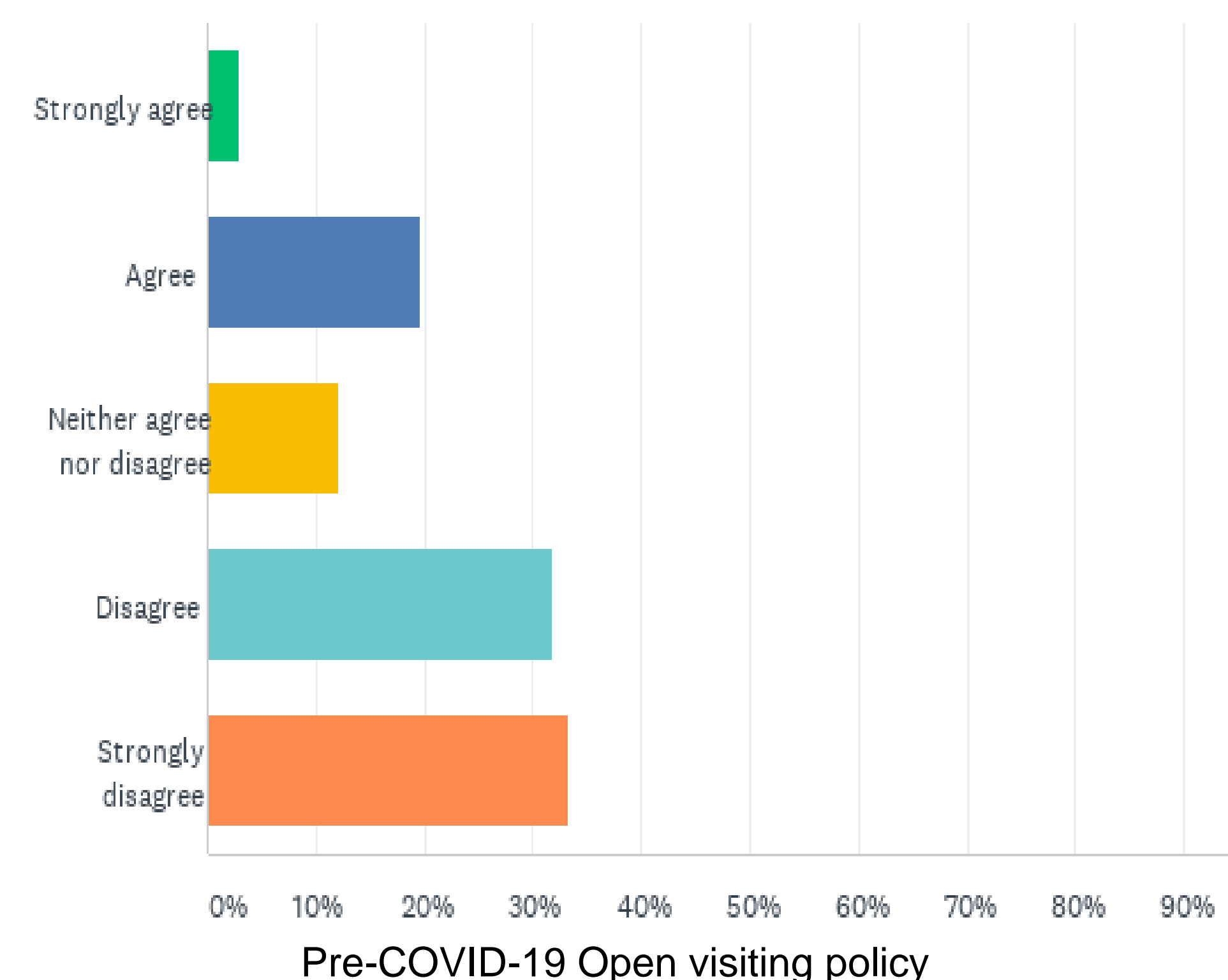
- 100 nurses qualified for the study
- Pre-COVID-19 Questionnaire: 75 total responses but 67 completed responses were noted – **91% completion rate**
- During COVID-19 Questionnaire: 69 responses but 65 completed responses were noted – **94% completion rate**
- Demographic data was used to describe the sample.

OUTCOMES

- Majority of nurses were female on both questionnaires
- **Pre COVID-19 – 77%**
- **During COVID-19 – 86%**

Age

Pre-COVID-19	During COVID-19
18 - 25 years - 6.7%	18 - 25 years - 4.35%
26 - 30 years -18.92%	26 – 30 years - 20.29%
31 - 40 years - 28.38%	31 - 40 years - 26.09%
41 - 50 years -16.22%	41 – 50 years - 20.29%
51 - 60 years - 21.62	51 – 60 years - 20.29%
> 60 years - 8.11%	>60 years - 8.70%



RESULTS

Nurses believed that visitation is beneficial to patients

- **Pre-COVID-19 – 80%**
- **During COVID-19 - 63%**

Nurses believed that an open visitation policy decreases family's anxiety

- **Pre-COVID-19 – 70%**
- **During COVID-19 – 66.67%**

Nurses believed that an open visiting policy interferes with patient care

- **Pre-COVID-19 – 72.85%**
- **During COVID-19 – 80.3 %**

Nurses believed that an open visiting policy hampers adequate planning of the nursing care process

- **Pre-COVID-19 – 61.4%**
- **During COVID-19 – 78.78%**

Nurses believed that an open visiting policy makes nurses to spend more time in providing information to the family

- **Pre-COVID-19 - 80.3%**
- **During COVID-19 – 66.5%**

Nurses believed that visitation is a helpful support for the caregivers

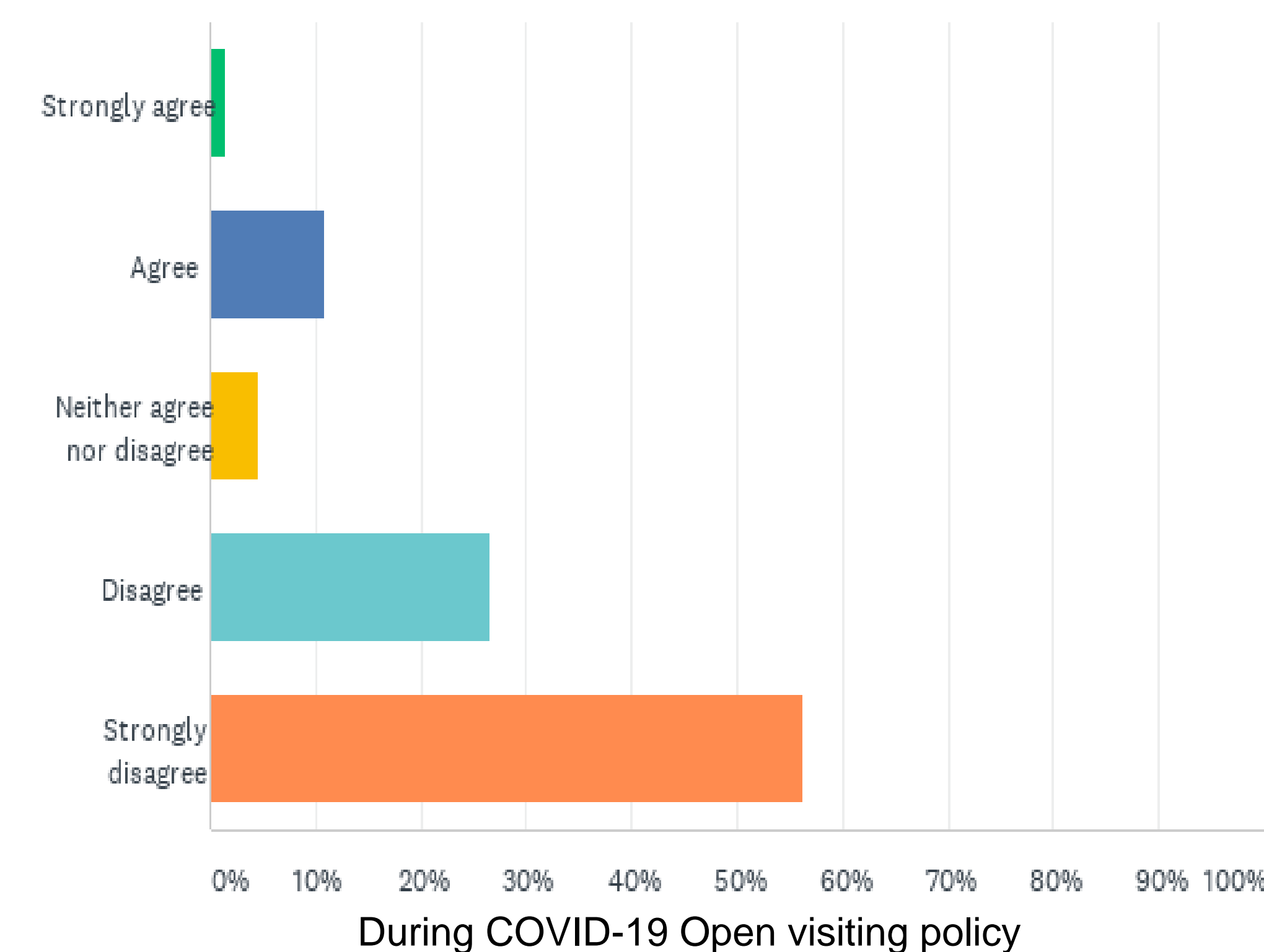
- **Pre-COVID-19 – 63.6%**
- **During COVID-19.- 66%**

Nurses believed that an open visiting policy should **NOT** be carried out in the intensive care unit

- **Pre-COVID-19 – 60.8%**
- **During COVID-19 – 78%**

Most nurses prefer restricted visitation with limited hours and visitors

- **Pre-COVID-19 – 75.9%**
- **During COVID-19 – 76.9%**



OUTCOMES CONT'D

Nurses felt patients' recovery was not dependent on visitation

- **Pre-COVID-19 – 50.74%**
- **During COVID-19 – 58.73%**

Nurses believed think that in a time range of 24h the number of visitors should be limited to 2 persons

- **Pre-COVID-19 – 53.85%**
- **During COVID-19 – 77.27%**

But... nurses adapted the visitation policy in cases of serious conflict or end of life cases

- **Pre-COVID-19 – 81.09%**
- **During COVID-19 – 100%**

NEXT STEPS

Limitations

- Novice researcher
- Single intensive care unit
- Convenience sample

Implications for Nursing Research, Education, Practice and Leadership

Dissemination of Findings

- Poster Presentation
- Presentation for Final Defense to the Regis Community
- Submission to Journal of Professional Nursing
- Archival at Regis College Library

References

- Athanasiou, A., Elizabeth, D. E., Papatanas, S., Patiraki, E., McCarthy, M. S., Giannakopoulou, M. (2014). Family visitation in Greek intensive care units: Nurses' perspective. *American Journal of Critical Care*. 23(4). doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.4037/ajcc2014986>
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- Monroe, M., & Wofford, L. (2017). Open visitation and nurse job satisfaction: An integrative review. *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, 26:4868-4876. doi:10.1111/jocn/13039
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