

Article: Including and Training Family Caregivers of Older Adults in Hospital Care
Authors: Beth Fields, Juleen Rodakowski, Cassandra Leighton, Connie Feiler, Tami Minnier, Everette James

Key Points:

- Including caregivers reduces the costs and resources needed
- Types of interactions and training methods that are being used with caregivers are poorly documented

Glossary:

“family” – traditional family, partner, home caregiver, or other support person designated by the hospitalized patient

Why this article matters: The ways in which family caregivers are involved and trained is key to improving outcomes.

Description of the Study:

This study aimed to explore and understand family caregiver involvement in hospital care.

Research Questions:

Examine the types of interactions and training methods used by health care providers with family caregivers during hospital care.

Describe barriers and facilitators to involving family caregivers in hospital care.

Synthesize the perspectives of health care providers on barriers and facilitators to help explain interactions and training methods used with family caregivers in hospital care.

Important Results: Family caregivers were most actively involved and trained during stay. During discharge and stay, caregivers were asking questions and healthcare providers were using multiple methods to train the caregivers. Three themes emerged as barriers and facilitators: experience, time, and relationship.

How the results will be used: The results will be used to help health care providers understand how to include and train family caregivers in the different points of the patient’s care along with what facilitators and barriers there are to including the caregivers and what training methods should be utilized and when.

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