



The added value of family-centered rounds in the hospital setting

Josien M. Woldring^{1, 2}, Marie Louise Luttkik¹, Wolter Paans^{1,3}, Reinold O.B. Gans²

¹Research Group Nursing Diagnostics, Professorship Family Care, School of Nursing, Hanze University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands

²Department of Internal Medicine, University Medical Center Groningen, University of Groningen, The Netherlands.

³Department of Critical Care, University Medical Centre Groningen, The Netherlands

Background

Families are a major source of support to patients during hospitalization and during the process of recovery at home after discharge [1]. Research indicates that family involvement and the preparedness for the role of caregiving highly depend on the support that they receive from healthcare professionals in the hospital [2]. A strategy to work more patient- and family centered is to include family in (ward) rounds, in what are called 'family-centered rounds' (FCRs)[3]. FCRs in this context are defined as "multidisciplinary rounds at the bedside in which the patient and family are involved in creating the care plan and evaluating the process"[4].

The aim of this study is to summarize the evidence regarding the added value of FCRs from the perspectives of patients, family, and healthcare professionals.

Methods

To obtain an overview of all available information on the added value of FCRs, a systematic review of systematic reviews was conducted. The electronic databases PubMed, CINAHL, and PsycInfo were searched for English-written systematic reviews with a focus on FCRs.

Of the 207 initial records, **four systematic reviews** were identified covering a total of **67 single studies**, mainly performed in critical and pediatric care.

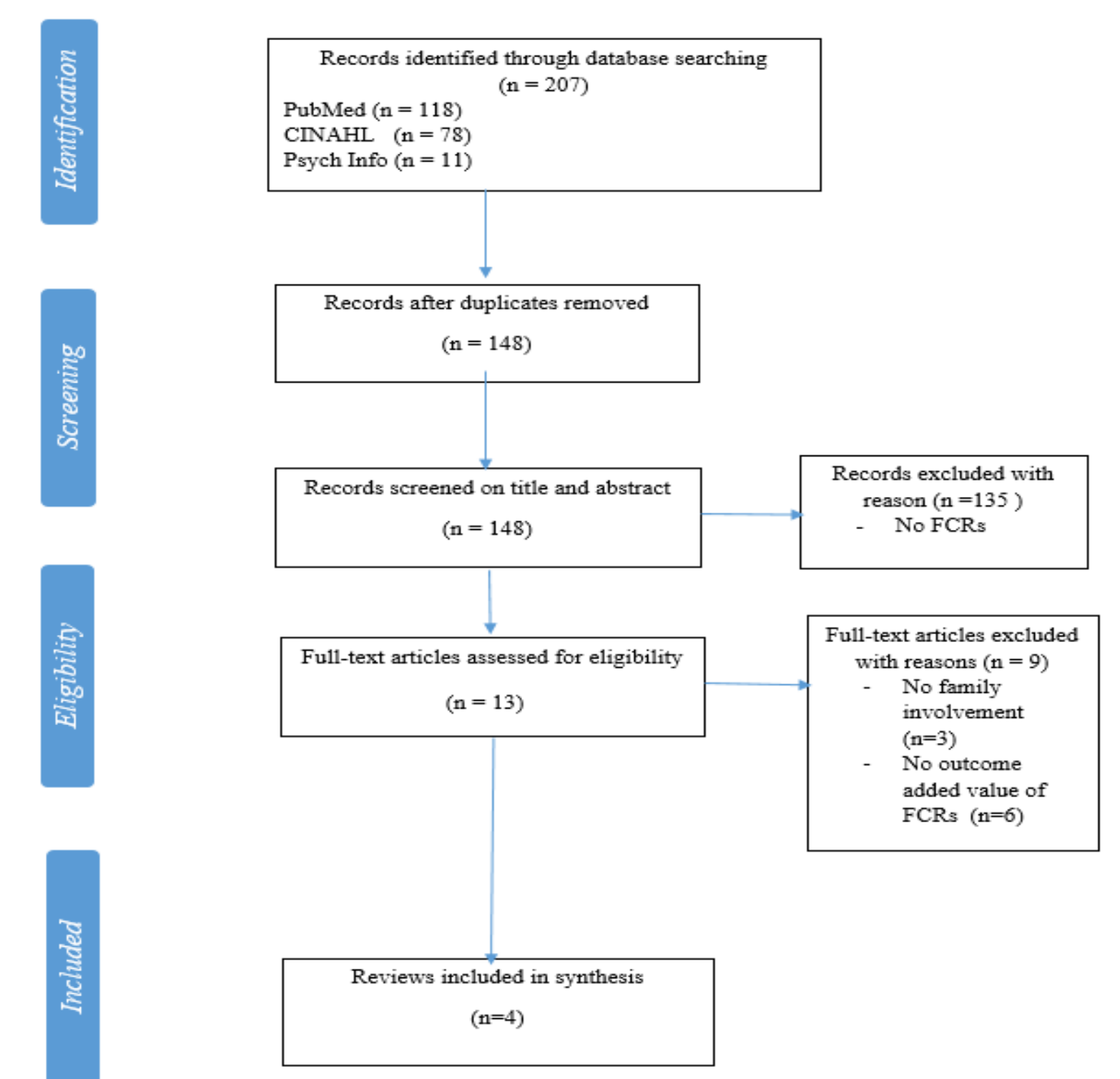


Figure 1 Flow diagram for eligible article identification.

Results

All four systematic reviews reported an **improvement in satisfaction** among patients, family, and healthcare professionals, whereby satisfaction is linked to **improved communication and interaction, improved situational understanding, inclusion of family in the decision-making process, and improved relationships within the care situation.**

Added value for patients

Better understanding of their situation by family members

Added value for family members

Improved communication and interaction

- A specific time of the day to meet with healthcare professionals
- Share valuable and consistent information about a patient
- Ask questions

Improved situational understanding

- FCRs as a roadmap for the patients' situation, goals, and expectations

Family members' inclusion in the decision-making process

- Opportunity to offer input about the patient
- Advocate for the patient
- Be part of the discussion

Improved relationships between family members and healthcare providers

- Family feel included and respected

Asses value for healthcare professionals

Improved communication and interaction for healthcare professionals

Share valuable information and explain things clearly:

- a) decrease the need for plan clarifications later on
- b) reduce the number of meetings outside rounds

Improved understanding of the patient and family (situation)

Learned more about the patient's history, health, and life goals:

- Affecting the decision-making process

Improved relationships between healthcare professionals, patients, and family members

- Facilitate a sense of teamwork

Conclusions & Recommendations

FCRs seem to improve satisfaction among patients, their family members, and healthcare professionals. However, current evidence is largely based on studies in the pediatric or critical care setting. Since family is the major source of support for patients and current healthcare more and more relies on the support of family, FCRs seem to be highly relevant for adult non-critical care patients as well.

Future research is recommended to explore the contribution of FCRs in the hospital setting with adult non-critical care patients and their family members.

References

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