



Questions & Answers

—Best Practices for Family Participation in ICU Rounds—

1. **Why are patient and family centered rounds important?**
2017 Society for Critical Care Medicine Guidelines recommend that patient's and family be invited to attend ICU rounds to improve communication and decision making.
2. **Will patient and family centered rounds increase the time spent in rounds?**
Patient and family centered rounds increase rounding efficiency and generally does not increase rounding time.
3. **What happens if the patient and family are interrupting/interfering with the rounding process?**
Remind the patient and family that there will be time for questions near the end of rounds once all the information has been delivered. Let the family member know that you appreciate the question(s) and ask them if they need paper/pen to write the questions down and assist as necessary.
4. **Who attends to represent the family?**
The Temporary Substitute Decision Maker (TSDM) is the primary participant in patient and family centered rounds. The TSDM and one to two other family members attending rounds is reasonable. If there are larger groups wanting to attend, we ask that the family give their questions to the TSDM to ask at rounds.
5. **If family is involved in rounds is there still a need for Family Conferences?**
If the family has many questions that cannot be addressed in rounds or further explanations are required, Family Conferences are still an important communication tool to use with families.
6. **What happens if the patient is unable to consent or confirm that they agree to the family attending rounds or receiving information?**
If the patient is unable to participate in decision making, a TSDM is the one responsible for making decisions and receive information.