

Emergency Nurses' Perceived Barriers to Engaging Patients with Life-Limiting Illnesses in Serious Illness Conversations: A Mixed-Method Analysis

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INTRODUCTION

- Serious illness (SI) conversations are discussions aimed at improving the quality of care for patients with life-limiting illnesses
- Engaging seriously ill patients in SI conversations creates the opportunity to provide care consistent with patients' wishes.
- Emergency nurses may encounter barriers in engaging in SI conversations despite being aware of the importance of such discussions
- Understanding these barriers may provide information on potential solutions

PURPOSE

- This study aims to assess emergency nurses' perceived barriers toward engaging patients in SI conversations and explore the possible solutions to these barriers

METHODS

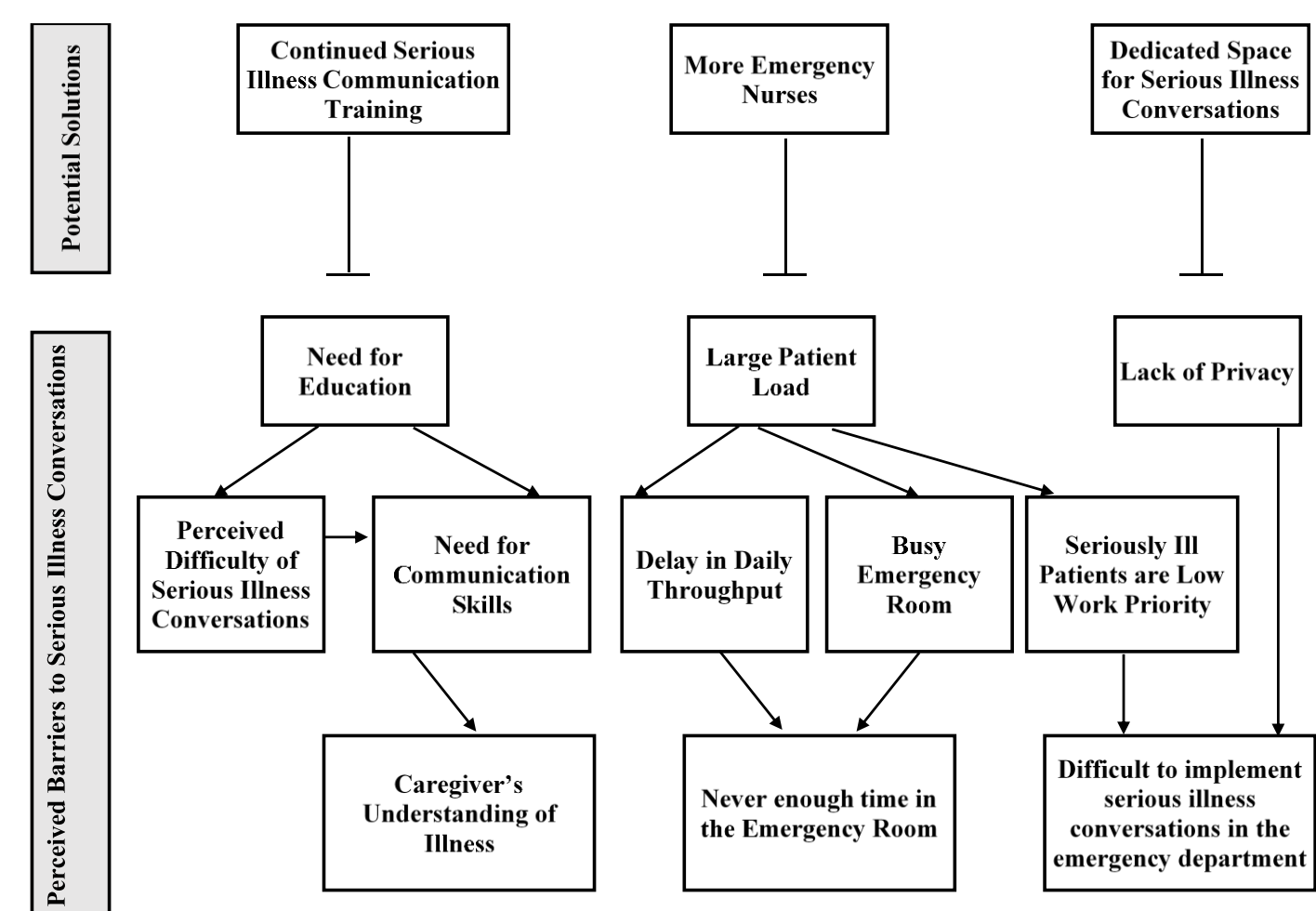
- Design: A mixed method convergent design comprising of cross-sectional (quantitative) and conceptual content analyses (qualitative).
- Population: 2,265 emergency nurses from 33 emergency departments enrolled in the Primary Palliative Care for Emergency Medicine study
- Data source: The End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) post-training survey
- Analysis: Quantitative - Frequency distribution. Qualitative - Themes and subthemes

Approximately **1 in 3 emergency nurses** reported that they will encounter barriers while engaging in serious illness conversations

Reported barriers in engaging in serious illness conversations included **human factors, time constraints, and challenges in the emergency work environment**

Potential solutions to the barriers included **the need for continued training, having dedicated emergency nurses and dedicated spaces for serious illness conversations**

RESULTS



Conceptual linkage of emergency nurses' perceived barriers to SI conversations in the emergency department and the implicit/explicit solutions

Key: interpreted as "a potential solution for"; interpreted as "may manifest as"

Measures	Counts (%)
Proportion of emergency nurses trained across 33 emergency departments	2,265 (81.4% of 2,781)
Proportion of emergency nurses that completed the post-ELNEC training survey	2,176 (96.1% of 2,265)
Proportion that will encounter barriers to SI conversations in their work environment	700 (32.2% of 2,176)

CONCLUSION

- Emergency nurses may encounter barriers while engaging in SI conversations in the emergency department
- Potential solutions exist for the multi-faceted barriers emergency nurses expressed.
- Institutional level policies may be required to create a palliative care friendly work environment

RESULTS

