

**Models of care delivery for critically ill children and their families:
An integrative review of international literature**

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Synopsis

An extensive [review of international literature](#) was undertaken to gain understanding of the existing models of care used in care delivery to critically ill and injured children and their families. The review included all illnesses alongside injury because of the paucity of evidence around childhood injury.

An integrative review method was used to enable a comprehensive review of literature employing a diverse range of methodologies. A systematic search of electronic databases and screen process was undertaken of 3296 scientific articles. Thirteen articles evaluating a model of care for critically ill children met criteria for review. These studies focused on evaluating models of care delivery for critically ill children and their families in a paediatric hospital setting. In all literature reviewed, the model of care implemented was associated with positive changes such as reduced parental anxiety and improved communication between parents/caregivers and health professionals. No model of care provided intervention throughout each phase of care to (or post) hospital discharge and some clinicians viewed the implementation and delivery of models as burdensome to their current practices. Family-centered care models (FCC) involve the patient, their family and health care providers working in partnership to meet care needs. Application of FCC principles targeting critically ill children and their families can create positive changes in care delivery for the family. However a model which provides continuity across the span of care is required, and there is a need to describe how best to design, implement and sustain such models.