

The aim of this master thesis was mainly to uncover the opinion of pediatric intensive care nurses working in academic hospitals in Prague on the issue of parental presence in PICU (pediatric intensive care units). The theoretical part summarizes the existing data on this issue. The empirical part presents the results of quantitative research, focusing on the opinion of nurses about care of parents of critically ill children as part of nursing care, the opinion about parental presence in PICU, about parental assistance in care of their children and their presence during invasive procedures. The thesis also focuses on some specific problems associated with parental presence in PICU from the nurses perspective, on the nurses feelings, education, special training and support received.

The main results of the research are:

- The majority of the nurses consider the care of critically ill childrens parents as an important part of their work.
- The nurses opinion about parental presence in PICU and their involvement in care of the child is mainly positive. Nurses with university degree allow parents greater integration into the care of their children.
- Nurses opinion about parental presence during less severe invasive procedures is mainly positive, meanwhile their opinion about parental presence during severe invasive procedure is strongly negative.
- The experience of nurses with parental presence during less severe invasive procedures depends on the workplace, their experience with parental presence during severe invasive procedures is minimal. Nurses with university degree are more experienced in this issue.
- The experience of the nurses with parental presence during invasive procedures positively affects their opinion to this issue.
- The support given to parents of critically ill children varies according to the workplace.
- Parental presence in PICU means a source of stress for nurses, the majority of nurses consider themselves to be only partially prepared for the communication with parents of critically ill children.

The outcome of the thesis are recommendations for changes in nursing practice regarding the care of parents of critically ill children hospitalised in PICU.