

# Therapeutic family presence key in Tx of acute deterioration in ER

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(HealthDay)—For deteriorating adult patients in the emergency

department, no family presence and physical family presence result in predominantly negative clinician-family-patient interactions, while therapeutic family presence results in positive clinician-family-patient interactions, according to a study published online Jan. 19 in the *Journal of Clinical Nursing*.

Megan J. Youngson, R.N., from Deakin University in Burwood, Australia, and colleagues examined the characteristics and interactions of clinicians, patients, and [family members](#) during management of deteriorating [adult patients](#) in the emergency department. The authors observed five clinical deterioration episodes within a 50-bed [emergency department](#).

The researchers found that while family are present during a patient's episode of deterioration, presence, roles, and engagement describe the interactions between clinicians, family members, and patients. Presence was categorized as no presence, [physical presence](#), or therapeutic presence. During a patient's deterioration episode, clinicians and family members moved through primary, secondary, and tertiary roles. Engagement was either superficial or deep. A complex interplay was identified between presence, roles, and engagement, with each affecting the form of the other variables.

"This study identified three types of presence that occurred during a patient's episode of deterioration," the authors write. "No presence and physical presence resulted in predominantly negative clinician-family-patient interactions, while therapeutic presence resulted in positive clinician-family-patient interactions."

**More information:** [Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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