International Family Nursing Association (IFNA) - UK and Ireland Chapter

National Roundtable Debate

Wednesday 15 January 2020
Hallam View, Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield, United Kingdom

Should nurses, midwives and health visitors use more family focused interventions to actively promote care of the patient's and client's families?

Background: In many countries except the UK, Family Nursing is a recognised, evidence-based discipline of Nursing and Midwifery in its own right. Family nurses collaborate with families of patients and clients to support them in coping with the impact of major life changes, such as births, bereavement and illness and the effect it has on their relationships. The patient is not seen as an isolated individual but part of a network or system of family and friends who are all affected by the patient's or client's situation; with any life change reverberating and having a major impact throughout that family system. Therefore, families are seen as playing a fundamental role in assisting the patient or client in managing their illness or life change and the impact it has on them, and families are generally cared for and actively supported with interventions to assist the family in coping with the life change as well as the patient and client. This roundtable of the UK's nurse leaders are invited to debate whether nurses, midwives and health visitors in the UK should take a role in providing more intervention and active support for families of patients and clients, and where the benefits and challenges of such an approach lie.

Itinerary

9.00	Arrival and coffee	
9.30	Welcome and introduction to the day	**Professor Alison Metcalfe** *(Co-Chair of the UK and Ireland IFNA Chapter)*
9.40	Chair and panel introductions	**Julie Mercer** *(Carnegie Associates LLP)*
9.50	Setting the scene: "What is Family Nursing?"	**Professor Marcia van Riper** *(University of North Carolina)*
10.15	Chair opens the debate	
11.45	Open the debate to the audience for questions and comments	
12.10	Chair's summary	
12.15	Lunch and informal discussion	
13.00	Close	