

Invitation to Participate in Research

Dear fellow AMSN member,

Futile care has been studied in the intensive care setting but little is known about futile care in medical-surgical units of acute care facilities. What does futile care mean to you and what have your experiences been?

My name is Angela Mulcahy and I am a doctoral student in the School of Nursing at the University of Texas at Tyler. I would like to invite you to participate in a study I am conducting titled “When Care Becomes Futile: Perspectives of Acute Care Medical-Surgical Nurses”. This study has been approved by the Institutional Review Board of The University of Texas at Tyler approval # F2017-30.

My research strives to obtain a better understanding of the perspectives of futile care from the voices of medical-surgical nurses. Because we know futile care can have a negative impact, I am anticipating the results of this study can help improve outcomes for patients and their families as well as nurses.

If you wish to participate in this study, the following criteria must be met:

1. You are a licensed registered nurse (RN).
2. You have greater than or equal to 5 years experience in an acute care medical-surgical setting.
 - a. These settings are non-critical care, and **include**: cardiac, medical, surgical, orthopedic, neurology, and step-down or intermediate care units. Any hospital unit that cares for adult patients who are acutely ill or recovering from surgery.
3. You work at least 36 hours per week in an acute care medical-surgical care area.
4. You have had experience working with patients when continued treatment is considered futile within the last 2 years.

The study will consist of two to three questionnaires distributed online over a period of approximately two to three months. You also have the choice of contacting me for a personal interview if you prefer that to completion of the first questionnaire. This questionnaire will ask you to “talk” all you want regarding your experiences with futile

care in the medical-surgical acute care setting. Each questionnaire will take about 15-20 minutes to complete.

All information will be kept confidential and I will be the only person knowing your identity.

I am excited about your potential contribution to this study. If you would like to participate, please click on the link below or copy and paste into an Internet browser.

https://uttyler.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5imZMDLVcCwVlhH

Participants completing the survey(s) will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 Amazon gift card.

If you have any questions before or during this study, please feel free to contact me via email or phone.

Sincerely,

Angela Mulcahy, MS, RN, CMSRN

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