

Abstract of the Thesis

Family Caregiving Education

by

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This study examines the efficacy of a simple brochure in addressing the information needs of family caregivers of patients in acute settings. It was found that few (10% to 20%) of the encountered family members (N = 15) were *new* to caregiving required for their patients, with only some of these novices (67%) feeling ready to receive caregiver information in the first meeting with the clinician. Some of those “ready” individuals initiated searches on their own in the absence of the brochure, while others of them who *were* given the brochure did not read it. Some people only took the brochure “for later,” but ended up reading it. People who did not take advantage of the brochure when it was offered still expressed feeling better supported if not better informed. In sum, this literature-based intervention was efficacious: novice family caregivers ran a lower risk of remaining uninformed in an acute therapies setting when the clinician offered to provide information with a simple brochure.