Abstract

**Purpose:** This study aimed to compare needs and met needs of parents of children transferred from a pediatric intensive care unit.

**Design:** Comparative descriptive study.

**Methods:** The subjects comprised parents of children who were transferred from two pediatric intensive care units to general patient units within twenty-four hours. Data were collected using a questionnaire asking parents’ needs and met needs at pre-transfer phase. Descriptive statistics and paired t-test were used for the analysis.

**Main findings:** The means of parents’ needs and met needs were statistically different ($t = 6.885$, $p = .000$). Parents’ needs were greater than their met needs. The ten greatest needs of parents were information, assurance of patient safety, and mental support, which were consistent with their met needs.

**Conclusion and recommendations:** Nurses should provide appropriate care for these parents to response their needs of information, assurance of patient safety, and mental support. Particularly, nurses should contact parents immediately when a patient’s condition changes. In addition, information related to treatment and prognosis, assurance of the best care for a patient and encouragement should be provided to parents before children are transferred from the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.

**Keywords:** intensive care unit, needs, met needs, parents, patient transfers