**BACKGROUND**

- 20% of Americans take their last breath in the intensive care unit (ICU). Prior to the 20th century, people used to die at home. Patients’ family members prepared for death, said goodbye, completed end-of-life closure tasks, and created memories.
- Most of the bereavement interventions for families come from the pediatric world. The concepts of Continuing Bonds, Object Linking and Attachment Theory have been used to aid the mourning process. Yet, there is no clinical-based research to support many of these interventions.
- This study addresses the gap in adult bereavement care training a novel intervention to improve end-of-life care for dying patients.

**STUDY PURPOSE**

- Determine effectiveness of the ECG Memento® as a transitional object for families, who have experienced the loss of a loved one in the Intensive or Intermediate Care— as they transition from anticipatory to bereaved status and evaluate its effect on nurses’ satisfaction with the expression of the grief process and the integration of the ECG Memento® as part of the bereavement care.

**STUDY AIM S**

**PRIMARY**
- Evaluate integration of the ECG Memento® as a transitional object for families in the bereavement process.
- Examine the effectiveness of the ECG Memento® as a transitional object on the continuing bonds theory in the bereavement experience of the family.

**SECONDARY**
- Examine the role of the RN and their experience facilitating the use of the ECG Memento® as a mediating object to facilitate and meet the emotional and psychosocial needs of families experiencing the death of a loved one.
- Examine the role staff nurse explanatory variables (demographic, experience with death and dying) that may influence the death experience.

**MEASUREMENT**

1. Investigator Developed Demographic Log
2. Satisfaction with Bereavement Experience Questionnaire (SBEXQ)
3. Quality of Dying and Death in the Intensive Care Unit Survey for Nurses (QIDDSN)
4. Charlson Comorbidity Index Score (CCI)

**STUDY RESULTS**

**CONCLUSIONS**

- The ECG Memento® provides a tangible connection to temporarily aid families in the grieving process, yet, further studies are warranted.
- 100% nurses felt the ECG Memento® was well received; however, only 40% felt patient symptoms were controlled.

**NURSING CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**

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**REFERENCES**