



“DESPERATE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED”: EXPLORING EXPERIENCES OF MATERNAL CRITICAL CARE

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INTRODUCTION

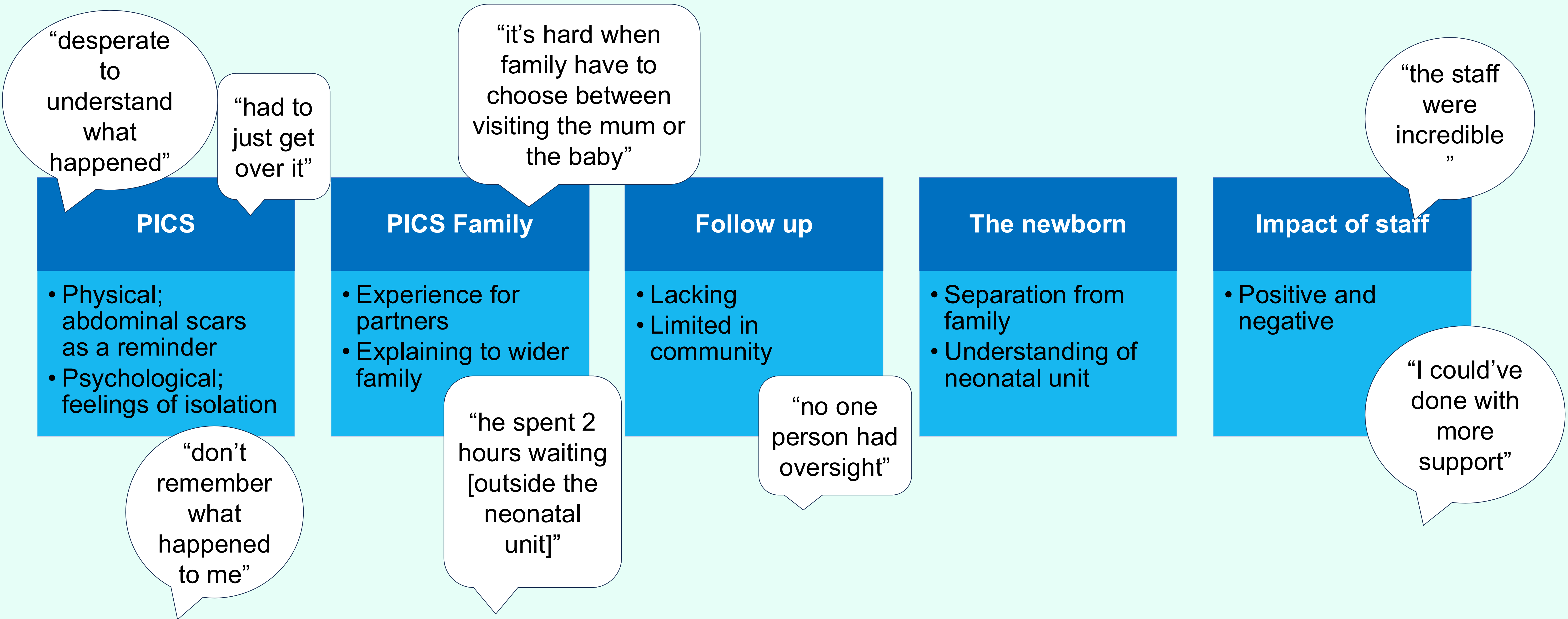
Maternal critical care (MCC) admission is associated with **increased risk** of **adverse maternal outcomes**. Optimisation of care following intensive care unit (ICU) admission may mitigate this risk, and symptoms of post intensive care syndrome (PICS), **physical**, **psychological** and **cognitive**, should be considered¹. We aimed to evaluate our MCC service with a view to exploring current experiences of maternity patients admitted to ICU.

METHODS

- Maternity patients in ICU from 2022-2023
- Voluntary focus groups
- Open and semi-structured questions
- Current wellbeing and ICU experiences
- Inductive thematic analysis
- Caldicott approval

RESULTS

Seventeen patients were approached and four out of five patients who attended focus groups consented to analysis of their responses. Themes, subthemes, and illustrative quotations are outlined below.



DISCUSSION

MCC admission has **physical** and **psychological** sequelae for patients and a **lasting impact** on families. Recovery services should consider symptoms of PICS, and compile lay summaries to **help patients understand** their experiences. Post-recovery patient visits to ICU may be helpful, and familiarizing patients with the neonatal unit might facilitate understanding of their newborns’ environment.

References

Masterson JA, Adamestam I, Beatty M, et al. Measuring the impact of maternal critical care admission on short- and longer-term maternal and birth outcomes. Intensive Care Medicine 2024; 50: 890-900