



box 3-3

Providing Care for the Critically Ill Child

- Provide parents with accurate, clear, honest, up-to-date information and explanations throughout treatment.
- Consistently involve the family in care and comfort of the pediatric patient.
- Involve the family actively in preparing the plan of care.
- Allow parents open visiting time as well as private time.
- Validate the positive behaviors observed in the parents during their care of the child.
- Respect the parent's right to make as well as change decisions about treatment options for the child.
- Demonstrate the commitment of the nurse to the care and comfort of the child.
- Expose the family to all the members of the health care team, especially when making decisions.



box 3-4

Providing Care for the Critically Ill Older Patient

- Respect the dignity, intelligence, privacy, and maturity of the patient at all times.
- Maintain the patient's right to make decisions as long as possible.
- Avoid the use of paternalism in patient care.
- Integrate the physiological and cognitive changes of aging with the assessment and care of the patient.
- Allow the family to share in the care of their family member.
- Provide active participation and a sense of control for the patient and family.
- Ascertain that the patient remains the focus of care, and that interventions are performed for the good of the patient.
- Assess the impact that medical and nursing interventions play on quality of life and sense of well-being.
- Determine family burden.