JOANNA BRIGGS INSTITUTE

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Title: Pediatric death after withdrawal of life sustaining therapies: a scoping review protocol

Centre: Queen's Collaboration for Health Care Quality: A Joanna Briggs Institute Centre of Excellence

Primary Reviewer
    Name: Conall Francoeur
    Email address: conall.francoeur.med@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

Question: What is known about the process of dying in children after withdrawal of life sustaining measures in pediatric intensive care units settings worldwide?

PCC

Population: children (0-18 years of age)
This scoping review will consider references that include children (0-18 years of age) going through withdrawal of life sustaining measures (WLSM). However, if the study focuses on newborns in neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) the reference will be excluded as premature infants have physiology that is distinct from term babies and children and thus, we believe that studies focused in NICU should be studied separately.

Concept: dying process after withdrawal of life sustaining measures
The main concept of interest in this review is the process of dying in children after WLSM, including aspects such as the physiologic process of dying and time to death prediction. Additionally, if the reports focus on the impact of the dying process in children after WLSM on families, healthcare workers and organ donation processes, the report will also be included. However, if the reference only reviews the incidence of autoresuscitation or transient resumption of cardiac activity in children, or if it focuses only on pediatric donation after circulatory death then the report will be excluded as these are not exclusively related to WLSM and therefore go beyond the scope of this review.

Context: pediatric intensive care unit
References will be considered if they are focused on any pediatric intensive care settings worldwide. But if the research is based in the NICU setting then the reference will be excluded for the reasons explained above.