



neurocritical care society

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Dear Medical Provider,

The Neurocritical Care Society (NCS) is pleased to announce the release of A Guide to Traumatic Brain Injury: The Intensive Care Unit. This unique book is intended to help families of patients with severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) in your neuroscience intensive care unit (NICU) navigate their personal crises by delivering comprehensive medical, technical, and practical information in a compassionate, empathetic, and reassuring way.

With shared decision making and patient/family-centered care in mind, the book is designed to empower your TBI patients' families by assisting with their understanding of their loved ones' condition, prognosis, and medical interventions. This guide is meant to create a common language for families and NICU practitioners and to facilitate effective communication on a range of topics, including sensitive ones such as transitioning to comfort care. The tone of the book is optimistic and supportive but also focuses readers on realistic expectations about recovery.

A Neuroscience Clinical Nurse Specialist writes, *"This book was so well written it allowed me to have a better understanding and feeling of what it is like to be a family member with a loved one in the ICU. It will help me to engage with family members that can be so overwhelmed with the neurological injury their loved one has experienced. I feel this book will help many families organize their thoughts and empower them to ask questions and make decisions. This book provides families with realistic expectations of what the day to day struggles could be while their loved one is in the ICU. This book has reminded me of how overwhelming the ICU environment can be, how devastating a brain injury can change the lives of so many people, and how I, a nurse can be there for both the patient and family to help them get through this difficult period in their lives."* Cynthia Bautista, PhD, RN, CNRN, SCRn, CCNS, ACNS-BC, FNCS, Yale-New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT

This book is the result of a partnership among David Y. Hwang, MD, a neurointensivist at Yale-New Haven Hospital; Dayla Maisey, BSc, whose brother was critically brain injured in a motorcycle accident; and the Neurocritical Care Society.

We are confident that this guide will be an asset in your NICU and will help you utilize your time with families more effectively—both at the bedside and during formal family meetings. We encourage the families of your patients to read it and appreciate your help in getting this resource into the hands of those who may find it most helpful in your NICU.

Sincerely,

Alejandro Rabinstein, MD, FNCS
NCS Educational Products Co-Chair

Wade Smith, MD, PhD, FNCS
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