

Supplemental Table 2. Characteristics of Patients and Ethical Case Discussions

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Age, median (IQR), y	69 (58-74)	68 (62-72)	68 (59-77)	72 (62-79)	73 (68-77)	71 (65-81)	72.5 (67-81)	69 (61.5-76.5)	68 (59-74)	70 (62-77)
Gender, No. (%)										
Male	14 (60.9)	20 (69.0)	17 (54.8)	26 (70.3)	16 (64.0)	21 (63.6)	22 (73.3)	23 (71.9)	30 (73.2)	189 (67.3)
Female	9 (39.1)	9 (31.0)	14 (45.2)	11 (29.7)	9 (36.0)	12 (36.4)	8 (26.7)	9 (28.1)	11 (26.8)	92 (32.7)
Emergent admission, No. (%)	18 (78.2)	21 (72.4)	16 (51.6)	23 (62.2)	21 (84.0)	28 (84.8)	23 (76.7)	20 (62.5)	34 (82.9)	204 (72.6)
SAPS, median (IQR)	50 (38-72)	59 (49-65)	58 (47-69)	63 (44-76)	62 (50-71)	58 (46-74)	61.5 (43-81)	54.5 (43-70)	58 (39-72)	58 (43-71)
Main diagnosis, No. (%)										
Trauma	0	3 (10.3)	2 (6.5)	0	2 (8.0)	1 (3.0)	3 (10.0)	1 (3.1)	6 (14.6)	18 (6.4)
Internal disease	2 (8.7)	0	0	1 (2.7)	1 (4.0)	1 (3.0)	0	2 (6.2)	10 (24.4)	17 (6.0)
Type of surgery										
Cardiac	8 (34.8)	11 (37.9)	11 (35.5)	8 (21.6)	8 (32.0)	10 (30.3)	4 (13.3)	6 (18.8)	9 (22.0)	75 (26.7)
Neuro	1 (4.3)	1 (3.4)	2 (6.5)	2 (5.4)	3 (12.0)	3 (9.1)	4 (13.3)	3 (9.4)	1 (2.4)	20 (7.1)
Pulmonary	4 (17.4)	4 (13.8)	6 (19.4)	4 (10.8)	3 (12.0)	3 (9.1)	6 (20.0)	10 (31.3)	3 (7.3)	43 (15.3)
Abdominal	7 (30.4)	4 (13.8)	5 (16.1)	12 (32.4)	4 (16.0)	8 (24.2)	6 (20.0)	1 (3.1)	5 (12.2)	52 (18.5)
Vascular	0	3 (10.3)	2 (6.4)	2 (5.4)	0	2 (6.0)	2 (6.7)	3 (9.4)	3 (7.3)	17 (6.0)
Orthopedic	0	1 (3.4)	1 (3.2)	2 (5.4)	3 (12.0)	2 (6.0)	2 (6.7)	4 (12.5)	2 (4.9)	17 (6.0)
Maxillofacial	0	1 (3.4)	2 (6.4)	2 (5.4)	0	1 (3.0)	0	0	0	6 (2.2)
Urological	0	1 (3.4)	0	3 (8.1)	0	0	0	0	0	4 (1.4)
Gynecological	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (3.3)	1 (3.1)	2 (4.9)	4 (1.4)
Plastic	1 (4.3)	0	0	1 (2.7)	1 (4.0)	2 (6.0)	2 (6.7)	1 (3.1)	0	8 (2.8)
Cancer patients, No. (%)	5 (21.7)	5 (17.2)	10 (32.2)	10 (27.0)	3 (12.0)	5 (15.2)	8 (26.7)	8 (25.0)	15 (36.6)	69 (24.6)
Total patients	23	29	31	37	25	33	30	32	41	281
Duration¹, median (IQR), min	40 (35-55)	37.5 (35-45)	45 (30-50)	40 (30-50)	40 (30-50)	40 (35-55)	35.(30-40)	40 (25-45)	45 (35-55)	40 (30-50)
Participants, No. min-max, mean										
Physicians	1-5, 2.92	1-6, 2.85	1-6, 2.67	1-6, 2.40	1-7, 2.53	1-5, 3.00	1-5, 3.09	1-5, 2.62	1-5, 1.96	1-7, 2.64
Nurses	1-4, 2.75	1-5, 2.39	1-5, 2.67	1-6, 3.28	1-6, 3.10	1-7, 3.42	2-10, 3.52	1-11, 2.68	1-8, 3.09	1-11, 3.01
Externals²	0	0-1, 0.27	0-3, 0.67	0-2, 0.85	0-6, 0.67	0-5, 0.58	0-2, 0.45	0-4, 0.41	0-5, 0.87	0-6, 0.56
Total³	3-8, 5.88	3-10, 5.67	3-11, 6.27	3-12, 6.90	3-14, 6.83	3-12, 7.32	4-15, 8.00	3-15, 6.30	3-14, 6.40	3-15, 6.64
Days between admission and case discussion, median (IQR)	9 (6-14)	9 (7-16)	9 (4-14)	12.5 (6.5-21)	8 (5-18)	10 (4-23)	5 (3-11)	8 (4-14)	7.5 (3-16)	9 (4-17)
Total case discussions	24	33	33	40	30	38	33	37	46	314

IQR=interquartile range; SAPS=simplified acute physiological score

¹ The duration is missing in 82 protocols

² Practitioners and specialists from other wards

³ A pastoral caregiver was present in 135 (42.9%) case discussions.