

2020-2021 CIHR COVID-19 Rapid Research Funding Award – Impact of Restricted Visitation Policies during the Pandemic

Funded Project, Recipient and Award

Primary Investigator(s): Dr. Kirst Fiest

Project Title: Understanding and managing the effects of COVID-19 restricted visitation policies on the families and healthcare providers of critically ill patients

Competition: Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) COVID-19 Rapid Research Funding

Total Funding Award: \$298,769 (over two years)

Summary: In response to COVID-19, hospitals in Canada have taken precautions to keep patients, families and healthcare providers safe, including enacting temporary visitor restrictions such as no visitor policies. With these temporary visitor restriction policies, healthcare providers are conducting difficult patient care discussions with family members (e.g., goals of care and medical decision making) over the phone.

This study will rigorously develop evidence-informed consensus statements to support family members and healthcare providers of critically ill patients to cope with temporary visitor restrictions. The impact of this new knowledge will translate into improved health for hospitalized Canadians, family members and healthcare providers affected by COVID-19 temporary visitor restrictions.

