

Living with Heart Failure: Case Histories Concerning Family Focused Nursing

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Background:

Patients newly diagnosed with Heart Failure and their significant other were randomly assigned to participate in approximately 3 Family- Focused Nursing (FFN) interventions at three Danish Heart Failure Clinics. The intervention was inspired by the Calgary Family Assessment and Intervention Model (CFAM/ CFIM) by Wright and Leahey.

Aim:

To Qualitatively Evaluate the FFN intervention by delineating the topics discussed and documented during the course, e.g. nursing interventions and the participants' responses.



Picture Source: The Danish Heart Foundation

Method:

As a result of the FFN intervention 34 case records were available to be analyzed. The case records were specially constructed, documenting the family structure, their histories and perception of the illness, and the communication between the families and the nurses.

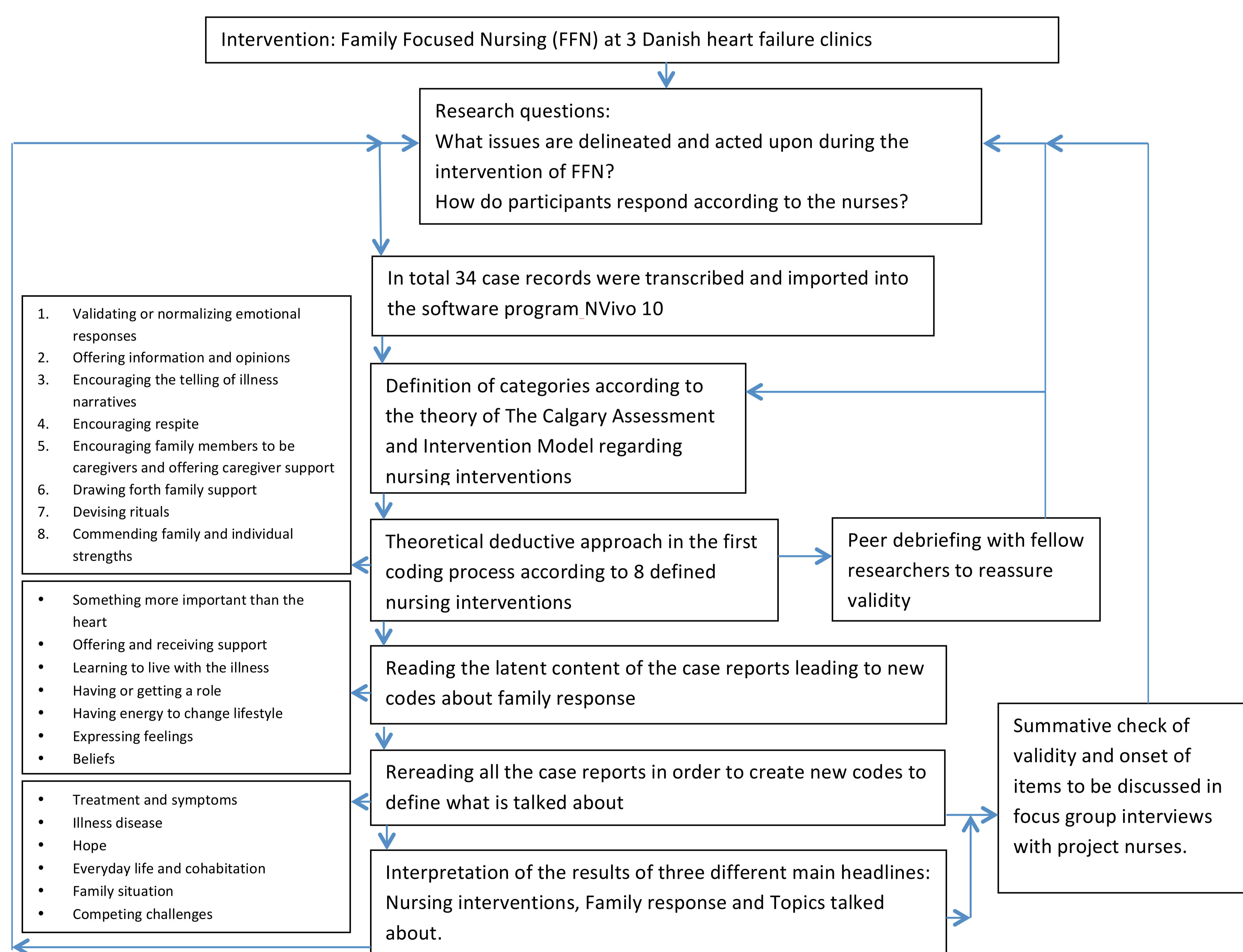
The materials were reread several times in order to allow an in-depth analysis. Three steps were used. First we analyzed the manifest content guided by the theory behind CFAM/ CFIM. Secondly the latent content was coded with focus on participants response. Finally overall topics were constructed.

Findings:

Time was spent initially to illuminate the family structure and perception. Seven categories of participant response emerged during the process: Something more important than the heart; Offering and receiving support; Learning to live with the illness; Having or getting a role; Having energy to change lifestyle; Expressing feelings; Beliefs. The topics which emerged during analysis were: Treatment and symptoms; Illness and disease; Hope; Everyday life and cohabitation; Family situation and Competing challenges

Perspectives:

Preliminary results identified topics of interest to participants. In addition, the process of FFN intervention provided them the opportunity to talk about their perception of the situation and be supported by the nurse's knowledge about the treatment. Further investigation is needed to illuminate the nurses' and families' perspectives. This aspect will be studied through a focus group interview with the project nurses and by interviewing the families participating in the intervention FFN.



Case history regarding family perception:

“Daughter finds her mother in a better state. They talked about not letting the smoking habits of her mother come between them. They take “time off” in the family from discussing the subject”. (3_519)