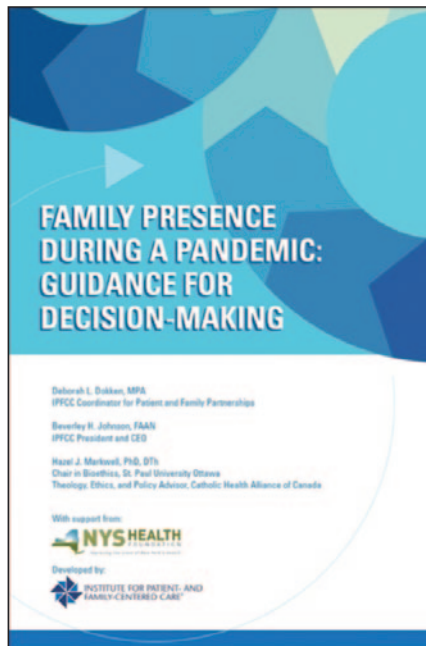


# Family Presence During a Pandemic: Guidance for Decision-Making



In the tremendous uncertainty following the beginning of COVID-19, leaders of hospitals, health systems, and other settings of care made decisions to prevent the spread of the infection – to protect the safety of staff, patients, families, and their communities. Often those decisions included extreme restrictions on the presence of family members in care settings. As a result, patients were forced to be alone, without the participation of family members in care, care planning, and decision-making and as advocates for safety, quality, mental health, and well-being. Tragically, many patients have died alone.

As we have learned more about the pandemic, the serious harms of these restrictions to patients, families, and clinicians are increasingly being recognized; individuals and organizations are urging that the restrictive policies be re-visited. IPFCC, in collaboration with a Canadian ethicist, has developed a new resource, **Family Presence During a Pandemic: Guidance for Decision-Making**. The development of the resource was supported by a grant from the New York State Health Foundation.

This free, online, resource integrates the core concepts of PFCC and fundamental principles of bioethics into **three tools to guide collaborative decision-making**.

Please review and use these tools within your organization to revisit and reflect on policies about family presence and participation – considering how to achieve a better balance between benefits and harms.

If you have questions about using the tools, feel free to contact:

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