

The Quality of Life of Primary Caregivers of Children with Chronic Illness

Emily Lowder, BSN, RN

Objectives:

- Discuss the implications, significance and factors that influence quality of life among caregivers of children with chronic illnesses.
- Introduce ways of measuring and assessing caregiver quality of life.
- Theorize ways to apply caregiver quality of life measurements to pediatric clinical practice.

Outline:

Childhood chronic illness affects all aspects of family life. Therefore, assessing and understanding the quality of life of the primary caregivers of these children is significant, especially for pediatric health care providers who care for the entire family unit. This presentation will include factors that influence quality of life, the significance of quality of life for caregivers, and measurement tools to assess quality of life. Clinical practice application will include ways to enhance the clinicians' focus on issues related to caregivers' quality of life.

1. Background of family distress for families of children with chronic illnesses
2. Review of the current literature related to caregiver quality of life
3. Information on the definitions of quality of life and ways to measure quality of life among adults
4. Ways to utilize quality of life measures in the clinical setting for chronic illnesses