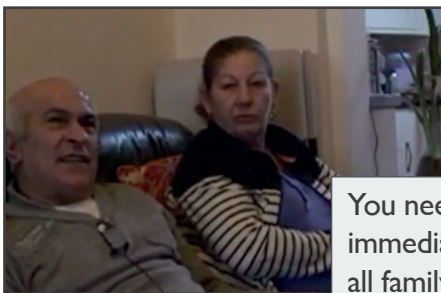


# Family Experiences of Vegetative and Minimally Conscious States

[www.healthtalk.org/peoples-experiences/nerves-brain](http://www.healthtalk.org/peoples-experiences/nerves-brain)

Families share their experiences on the award-winning website **healthtalk.org**

Research by Professor Jenny Kitinger & Professor Celia Kitinger (Cardiff University),  
Co-Directors of the Coma and Disorders of Consciousness Research Centre ([cdoc.org.uk](http://cdoc.org.uk))



You need not just your immediate family, you need all family support.



One of the hardest things is dealing with other people, because you are play-acting. That wears you down



You're in pain all the time. You can't un-break your heart.

## Find out about issues such as:

### Critical care

Treatment decisions in the Intensive Care Unit

### Longer term care

Rehabilitation and care centres – Recovery – A 'Permanent' diagnosis – Hospital re-admissions

### Impact on family and friends

Hope – Grief – Impact of visiting – Impact on children – Family unity and differences – Reflections on own end of life wishes

### Ongoing decisions

Resuscitation – Treatment of infections – Artificial nutrition and hydration

### Death and dying

Repeated life-threatening incidents – Bereavement after severe brain injury

## Endorsements

Winner of British Medical Association 'Patient Information Award' (2016) for 'Information on Ethical Issues'

"It is an excellent website and should be **the** resource for Health Care professionals, including managers and commissioners, because it covers all aspects and presents most of the possible points of view. (Professor Derick Wade, Oxford Centre for Enablement)

"It's an invaluable complement to the National Clinical Guidelines and will help health care professionals to deliver the guidelines in practice" (Professor Lynne Turner-Stokes, Chair of the Royal College of Physicians Guidelines Development Group)

"On this wonderful website we can hear others expressing their heartfelt thoughts and fears, and putting it so eloquently - you don't feel so alone." (Angela Bolton, family member)