

Module 7

Final Hours

Module Overview

This module focuses on care at the actual time of death, emphasizing the preparation necessary to insure the best care at this critical event in the trajectory of illness.

Key Messages

- The actual time of death creates unique issues beyond those encountered during the course of illness.
- Care at this time demands attention to physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs of Veterans across life's span and the special needs of their families.
- Nurses and other members of the healthcare team must work together to orchestrate a dignified death for all Veterans.

Objectives

Upon completion of this module, the participant will be able to:

1. Assess an imminently dying patient and list five physical signs and symptoms of the dying process and three signs of death.
2. Assess physical, psychological, social, and spiritual care needs and interventions for an imminently dying patient and their family.
3. Discuss the role of the nurse surrounding the death of a patient.