Module 7
Final Hours

PARTICIPANT OUTLINE
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Participant Outline

I. INTRODUCTION
   A. The nurse’s role in dying and death
   B. Dying as a physical, psychological, social, cultural, and spiritual event

II. PREPARING FOR A GOOD DEATH
   A. The nurse as an advocate
   B. Open, honest communication as death approaches
   C. Dying: individualized, personal experience
   D. Exploring important questions
      1. Medically assisted nutrition and hydration
      2. Resuscitation
      3. Discontinuing cardiac devices and treatments such as inotropes
      4. Withdrawing/Discontinuing mechanical ventilation
      5. Discontinuing dialysis
      6. Organ/Tissue donation
      7. Request for hastening death
   E. Psychosocial considerations
   F. Cultural considerations
   G. Spiritual considerations

III. FREQUENT SYMPTOMS ASSOCIATED WITH IMMINENT DEATH
   A. Most common distressful symptoms seen when death is imminent
      1. Dyspnea
      2. Pain
      3. Noisy breathing/respiratory congestion
      4. Delirium
      5. Myoclonus
   B. Sedation for intractable symptoms/ Palliative Sedation
   C. Imminent death
      1. Death vigil
      2. Common fears
      3. Nursing interventions: support

IV. BEREAVEMENT CARE
   A. Preparing the family for death
   B. Care following death
      1. Removal of tubes, medical supplies, and equipment
      2. Bathing body/positioning
   B. Care and respect of the body
      1. Respect family rituals
      2. Allow family to provide physical care
      3. Military burial
      4. Veteran benefits
C. Bereavement support
   1. Remember children
   2. Remember grandparents

V. CONCLUSION