

ELNEC- For Veterans

END-OF-LIFE NURSING EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

Palliative Care For Veterans

Module 7 Final Hours

PARTICIPANT OUTLINE

Module 7: Final Hours 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