

End of Life Care: Nursing Student Role

WebQuest Description: To assist graduate nursing students in providing compassionate and effective End of Life care to patients across care settings.

Grade Level: College / Adult

Curriculum: Health / PE

Keywords: End of Life Care, Nursing Students, American Association of Colleges of Nursing

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Introduction

Today we had a patient who died...being do not resuscitate-intubate, it wasn't as if death came suddenly. His wife was crying, his kids were crying, social workers were trying to contact family members...just a whole lot of things at once. I didn't process the death at first; we had patients to take care of...but then our instructor had us in a room...to help prep the body. Just then I found myself staring at a body who is still, completely still, incapable of doing anything, who a few hours ago, was alive. His heart was firing, blood was flowing, and now it's still...I've been to wakes and funerals, too many, but I'd never seen how death is handled in a hospital. It felt cold. It was as if the tech did so many (preps); it became mechanical. I understand the body is heavy but I just thought it could have been done a little more gently...we helped bind his hands, feet and jaw together, he was tagged and then put into a bag. That was weird, I helped put a human into a bag, put him on a cart, rode him into the morgue, into a big refrigerator...and being with a dead body, well, it isn't as scary as I once thought it's be. It's just really quiet. And that's the sad part. The quiet. Have you experienced something similar to this nursing student's account of death of a patient? Have you given much thought about how you would handle caring for a terminally ill patient or the death of a patient? As a student nurse, or as a new graduate nurse, you will most likely encounter a patient death experience. The American Culture has a tendency to deny death, believing that medical science can cure any patient. Death is a natural aspect of life but is often seen as a failure of the health care system. This belief affects nurses and all health care professionals. Nurses are educated in the technical and interpersonal skills needed for the nursing role but research indicates nurses are not competent nor confident in the specialized skills needed to provide quality End of Life Care to patients. Nurses must acquire the knowledge and skills required to provide this special care and to make a positive impact on the lives of both the patient and their family. The purpose of this Webquest is to assist nursing students and new graduate nurses with the skills and knowledge to provide competent end of life care. "Peaceful Death," was developed for undergraduate nursing students by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to guide a vision and provide recommended competencies and curricular guidelines for End of Life Care.

At the completion of this course, a group project will to produce a powerpoint with audio recording of each group member to reflect the competencies established by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and the skills and knowledge gained through resources provided through the webquest course links.

Tasks

Goals: The student will have a better understanding of death and dying and gain the knowledge and skills needed to function in the nursing role to provide wholistic end of life nursing care. The student will apply and demonstrate end of life care knowledge in group project. Learning Objectives:1. The student will verbalize and demonstrate a knowledge base of their role in the death and dying process.2. The student will verbalize knowledge of wholistic nursing care for both the patient and their family in the death and dying process.3. The student verbalize a knowledge of their role in the care of themselves in a physical and spiritual way when dealing with death.Outcomes:Explore: Take inventory and explore personal thoughts, feelings and perceptions about end of life through reflection.Define: What is End of Life Care and how has this care evolved and what will it involve in the future in nursing practice.Identify: Explain is the Nurses role in providing end of life care?Differentiate: End of Life care across CulturesClassify: Apply legal and ethical principles and the relevance of informed consent, advance directives, do-not-resuscitate orders in the analysis of complex issues in end-of-life care, recognizing the influence of personal values, professional codes, and patient preferences. Organize: Knowledge from symptom assessment to plan and intervene in symptom management using state-of-the-art traditional and complementary approaches.Integrate: Using the competencies below integrate them into a powerpoint explaining how you might apply them in nursing practice. Competencies Necessary for Nurses to Provide High-Quality Care to Patients and Families During the Transition at the End of Life1. Recognize dynamic changes in population demographics, health care economics, and service delivery that necessitate improved professional preparation for end-of-life care.2. Promote the provision of comfort care to the dying as an active, desirable, and important skill, and an integral component of nursing care.3. Communicate effectively and compassionately with the patient, family, and health care team members about end-of-life issues.4. Recognize one's own attitudes, feelings, values, and expectations about death and the individual, cultural, and spiritual diversity existing in these beliefs and customs.5. Demonstrate respect for the patient's views and wishes during end-of-life care.6. Collaborate with interdisciplinary team members while implementing the nursing role in end-of-life care.7. Use scientifically based standardized tools to assess symptoms (e.g., pain, dyspnea [breathlessness] constipation, anxiety, fatigue, nausea/vomiting, and altered cognition) experienced by patients at the end of life.8. Use data from symptom assessment to plan and intervene in symptom management using state-of-the-art traditional and complementary approaches.9. Evaluate the impact of traditional, complementary, and technological therapies on patient-centered outcomes.10. Assess and treat multiple dimensions, including physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs, to improve quality at the end of life.11. Assist the patient, family, colleagues, and one's self to cope with suffering, grief, loss, and

care. The students were to create an audio powerpoint which used the American Colleges of Nursing competencies to guide End of Life Care. The expected goal at the conclusion of the Web Quest is that the nursing students use the knowledge and skills gained to provide quality end of life care to their patients and families.

Teacher Page

The students had the opportunity to collaborate in creating a synthesis of course material to demonstrate their knowledge of established competencies set by the American Association of College of Nursing for end of life care into a powerpoint presentation. The powerpoint presentation caused each student to analyze the information resources and discover practical ways to incorporate standards into nursing practice. Student's ability to incorporate competency standards into practice have a better understanding of their nursing role in end of life care. Through increased knowledge, practice is improved.

Standards

Credits

Other