



PROCEDURE: NEEDS OF DYING PATIENTS AND End of Life Care

Date: 11/9/2009 Supersede: 10/1/2009

Approved by:  Date: 11/9/2009

Needs of Dying Patients and End of Life Care

Learning Objectives:

After reading this section on Needs of Dying Patients and End of Life Care, the learner will be able to:

1. Discuss the need to meet physical, spiritual and emotional needs of the dying patient.
2. State resources available to help meet the needs of the dying patient.

PROCEL Nurses is committed to caring for patients all the days of their lives. Part of the care includes end of life care.

We believe:

1. That it is our responsibility to meet the needs of the dying patient, physically, spiritually and emotionally.
2. That excellent culturally competent end of life care is the physical, emotional and spiritual care we provide to our patients in the last year of their lives, not the last days.
3. That pain and symptom management is every patient's right along with education about their disease process.
4. That patients often require additional support in the last years and months of life and to meet this need, our nurses may participate in Palliative Care and Hospice.

Our Nurses are encouraged to read Kubler-Ross E. On death and dying: What the dying have to teach doctors, nurses, clergy and their families: 1st ed. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1997

The Needs of the Dying

1. The need to be treated as a living human being.
2. The need to maintain a sense of hopefulness, however changing its focus may be.
3. The need to be cared for by those who can maintain a sense of hopefulness, however changing this may be.
4. The need to express feelings and emotions about death in one's own way.
5. The need to participate in decisions concerning one's care.
6. the need to be cared for by compassionate, sensitive, knowledgeable people.
7. the need for continuing medical care, even though the goals may change from "cure" to "comfort" goals.
8. The need to have all questions answered honestly and fully.
9. The need to seek spirituality.
10. The need to be free of physical pain.
11. The need to express feelings and emotions about pain in one's own way.
12. The need of children to participate in death.
13. The need to understand the process of death.
14. The need to die in peace and dignity.
15. The need not to die alone.
16. The need to know that the sanctity of the body will be respected after death.

I have read the above Procel policy and procedure for meeting the needs of dying patients and end of life care.

Employee Signature

Date