

1/11-12/22 reflection

This week my nurse and I had a patient who is very sick and not getting any better, but the pt is not in their right mind and unable to make their own decisions about their treatment. Her wounds are not getting better and her less severe wounds will progressively become worse as well. The pt is confused and unaware of the situation and severity of her condition. The family however is keeping her from going on palliative care because they are hoping she will improve despite doctors and the Nursing staff telling them on several occasions that her wounds are not getting better and is also refusing to eat. They decline to listen to medical staff but only visit for about an hour and they talk to the pt like she should know better like with her lack of eating. They do not stay for the wound dressing of other cares performed and miss all the pain she is in with simple actions such as cleaning. My nose was very objective in telling the husband about her condition and the degree to which her health is no longer improving, but he simply asked if she was eating or not. As an outsider to her family dynamic it is easy to ask why is the family hesitant to pursue palliative care, but it must be very difficult for the family to make a decision that ultimately leads to the end of a loved one. From what I've come to understand the best thing me as nurse can do is continue to take care of the pt while trying work with the family to ease the stress of the given situation and pool IDE support in the difficult choice they will ultimately have to make all the while making sure not to provide any false hope when the situation is unlikely to improve.