

End-of-Life Study Guide

1. List the signs that the nurse would anticipate seeing that death is approaching.

Psychological	Cardiovascular	Respiratory	Sensory	Pain	GI/GU/Skin/Musculo

Brain Death

Explain what brain death is.	List criteria to determine brain death.	What hemodynamics should the patient exhibit before brain death can be declared? Why?	Explain the vestibulo-ocular reflex.	Explain the oculocephalic reflex.

Organ Donation

List organs that can be donated.	
List code status of organ donor.	
Identify the nursing actions that are required to maintain perfusion and oxygenation to major organs.	
List tissues that can be donated. Do these require perfusion or oxygenation? Why?	
Describe the factors that affect organ donation. Why would the transplant team be involved?	

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Withdrawing Life Sustaining Treatment (LST) & Nursing Management	
What LST's would the nurse anticipate being withdrawn?	
Describe medications used in EOL care. What is the benefit of giving or discontinuing a medication?	
What is the process when a patient is extubated? Do they die immediately? How would you explain the process to a family?	
Describe the difference of an implanted pacemaker and an automatic implantable cardioverter defibrillator.	Do they need to be turned off? How do you turn them off?
Read the 2017 Nutrition and Hydration at the End of Life Nutrition and Hydration at the End of Life ANA Enterprise (nursingworld.org)	<p>Should a patient continue to receive nutritional therapy against their wishes? Or against the families wishes?</p> <p>Can a patient with decision making capacity decide if they no longer wish to eat or drink?</p> <p>How would you handle a situation like this?</p>
What should the nurse do when a patient has been declared brain dead? Who should they contact?	
Describe what to document. What should you say? What should you not say?	

Self Care for Nurses			
What are your values, attitudes and feelings towards end-of-life and death? What is your customs regarding death?	Identify what your patterns of grief are. How do you deal with grief surrounding death? Have you ever experienced this type	Identify your support system at work.	Identify your support system at home.

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	of loss? What would you expect if you suddenly lost a loved one?		

Legal and Ethical Issues

<p>Describe an advance directive. Can an advance directive be overridden and/or revoked? Does this have to be the patient, or can it be next of kin?</p>	
<p>Explain the difference between Allow Natural Death (AND) and Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)</p>	
<p>Read the 2021 Nursing care and Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) Decisions - read the Statement of ANA position. nursing-care-and-do-not-resuscitate-dnr-decisions-final-nursingworld.pdf</p>	<p>What is the difference between DNR and withdrawing care?</p>
<p>Read the 2019 The nurse's role when a patient request medical aid in dying - read the Statement of ANA position. the-nurses-role-when-a-patient-requests-medical-aid-in-dying-web-format.pdf (nursingworld.org)</p>	<p>How is euthanasia different from medical aid in dying? What is the nurse's role in medical aiding a patient who is dying?</p>
<p>Explain the Ethical Principles.</p>	
<p>What is the purpose of an ethics committee? What is the nurse's role in contacting an ethics committee? Why and how would they consult them?</p>	