

### Final Reflection

I chose to reflect on a situation with a patient's family not wanting something that was best for the patient. We had a patient that had a suspected anoxic brain injury that we were waiting to do an MRI on for confirmation. The patient started getting tachycardic, tachypneic, and hypertensive, so we started him on fentanyl for pain and withdrawals. His mother asked why he was on that, and we explained what we were seeing and that it might be happening because of pain. She didn't like that answer and accused us of trying to kill him with the fentanyl. We stopped the fentanyl because she wasn't going to let us keep giving it to him. We informed the charge nurse, manager and doctor and continued to monitor his vital signs.

It was shocking at the time because I would think you wouldn't want your loved one to be in pain, but now I realize she was blinded by the prognosis and her own misconceptions about fentanyl or what she thought we were doing. It was a weird situation to be in because you want to advocate for your patient, but at the same time, she wasn't going to relent on the fentanyl. I felt bad for the patient because we couldn't fix his pain or withdrawal.

It was good that we could treat the patient's pain for a short period of time, but it would have been better if we were able to continue giving him the fentanyl. I expected the patient's mother to want us to treat her son's pain. It was good that we explained to the mother why we were giving the fentanyl to him and tried to be an advocate for the patient.

I think the mother was just so angry about the prognosis and didn't think that the prognosis was real. She still thought he was trying to wake up, so she could've thought that the fentanyl was going to sedate him a little bit. It was just shocking that she thought we were trying to kill him. I have learned that people have all different misconceptions about what nurses are doing and why, and a family learning about a bad prognosis of a loved one can completely change how they act toward the staff and everyone taking care of their loved one.