

ATI: Video Case Study Palliative and Hospice Care

Marianna Craighead

Lakeview College of Nursing

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How can the nurse ensure that a client receiving palliative/hospice care is kept comfortable? What are some ways that the nurse could provide for the psychosocial and spiritual comfort of the client?

The nurse can ensure that the client receiving palliative or hospice care is kept comfortable by many things. When the patient can verbally communicate with the nurse, the nurse can ask the patient about pain levels. When the patient cannot communicate verbally, the nurse can watch for nonverbal signs of discomfort to evaluate the patient for pain. The nurse can provide psychosocial and spiritual comfort to the patient by respecting that they are still a person. They can still have visitors or go places and not have to be home-bound. A spiritual aspect is to find out what religion they are and go to a particular church. If they are religious and have gone to the same church, the nurse could reach out to the church and arrange spiritual times for the patient.

How can the nurse provide support for the family/loved ones of the dying client?

When a nurse is taking care of a dying patient, they are taking care of the patient and taking care of the family. The nurse needs to explain the dying process to the family because it can be scary for the family when a patient is dying. The nurse can also make sure that if the patient's family is struggling, they can get a social worker involved to help the family. The nurse can also help the family find grievance counseling to help work through their emotions that they are feeling throughout the patient's dying process.

What feelings occurred when interacting with a person with a life-limiting illness?

When the nurse interacts with a person with a life-limiting illness, they can grieve. The nurse who has a first patient die on them tends to grieve greatly. They tend to believe that there was something else they could have done to help them prolong their life. Another feeling that nurses may feel is if they lost a loved one of their own. Nurses in long-term care tend to develop a relationship with patients. The nurses know a lot about their patients they take care of and can become saddened when their patient expires.

Were the feelings or emotions adequately handled?

This student believes that it is good to grieve. If a nurse holds in all the emotions they experience, it can affect how they work. They can turn the grievance they are feeling into anger and think that it was their fault that the patient passed when it was a life-limiting illness that ended their life. Some facilities have grievance counseling for nurses when they experience a loss. If a nurse cannot cope with their emotions, they should attend counseling to help them work through the nurse's feelings.

Was there adequate communication with the ill person?

Yes, the nurse adequately communicated with the ill patient. The nurse did not disregard the patient just because of the illness. The nurse still showed patient therapeutic communication. The nurse needs to remember that they communicate verbally and nonverbally—many types of therapeutic communication for the ill patient. An important one for people that are ill is massage

therapy. This type of therapy allows the patient to relax and decrease their stress, which in turn increases their ability to relax.

How did the person with the life-limiting illness feel during their interactions?

The person with the life-limiting illness felt relaxed. The patient, like that nurse, still respected the wishes that they had. The patient enjoyed that the nurse was willing to communicate with the patient rather than give medication and leave. The patient enjoyed the interaction with the nurse. The patient enjoyed that the nurse made him feel like there was so much more to life than what he had been feeling.

Could the interactions have been improved in any way? How?

There is always improvement in care that the health care team can perform. The nurse could make sure not only are the patient's needs are met but also the family. When a terminal illness occurs, a sick person's family members are often put to the side. They may need such psychological help to work through the emotions that they are having at the said time.