

Reflective Case Study Gerontology Assignment:

ATI: Nurse's Touch 2.0: The Communicator 2.0 Video Interaction: Client Comfort and End of Life Care

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What was learned from this scenario?

The most potent take-home message that the student learned from the scenario was to always include the patient's family in all aspects of the patient's care (per the patient's wishes). When the nurse includes the family, this makes the family feel involved and may have an easier time coping during those last challenging days. Acknowledging the patient's feelings and understanding the patient's concerns regarding end-of-life decisions is a tremendous honor. Putting the patient's feelings first before any family members is also ideal. Allowing the patient to rest and feel at peace is the overall acceptance end of life care.

Identify the biggest takeaways.

a) Explain the factors that influenced this decision.

The student nurse got to see two end-of-life experiences alongside family members and other nurses, which was tough. Being calm, collective, and honest with the student's feelings before understanding what the patient and their family are going through will help the situation advance more smoothly. The most crucial factor in this process is the patient. Explain to the patient what is happening and understand and listen to the patient. Advocating for the patient is the biggest takeaway.

What are some of the main problems or key issues expressed in the scenario?

The patient's family argued about who would be best to take care of the patient. The patient's family took aside certain selfish emotions instead of looking at the bigger picture and addressing the patient's concerns and feelings first. End-of-life situations are challenging for all involved family members, but remember that the patient must come first is always the first plan of action to provide the best overall care. Explaining and respecting the patient's wishes will help the family better understand the right thing to do.

What were some of the challenging decisions the nurse needed to make?

a) Describe the rationale behind these decisions.

The nurse had to remember that the patient comes first, whether that upsets the family or not. Respecting the patient's treatment plans was very upsetting to the patient's family. Even though the family wanted the best care for that patient, the family also needs to remember what originally the patient wanted before the patient got extremely sick. The patient requested that the patient not want to receive any pain medication, and this was very alarming for the patient's family. Never be afraid to stand up for the patient in these challenging times. Helping the family see why the patient wanted this specific type of treatment and educating them on the rationale helped the family cope better.

What factors influenced the nursing decisions and responses during the scenario?

a) Explain the response.

b) How will a nurse respond if this scenario presents again in the future?

The nurse knew that they had to make the best choice for the patient. The nurse respected the patient's wishes and validated those concerns and requests. The nurse will remember to acknowledge the patient's feelings and wishes first before recognizing the patient's family. There may be times when the patient and the family disagree on the treatment plans but supporting the patient will be the best decision.

Have similar situations been experienced in current clinical rotations?

- a) **How did nursing or others respond to the situation? Please explain.**
- b) **Describe successful communication strategies used or experienced in the clinical setting.**

The student nurse has seen two similar experiences while in clinical rotation. The student stood by the patient in the patient's time of need and helped the family see it the patient's way. The first situation the student nurse dealt with was almost identical to the scenario in the ATI. The student nurse knew the patient's particular requests and abided by them. The student nurse's second scenario dealt with while on clinical rotation was the patient being alone and scared. The student nurse sat down by the patient and used therapeutic communication with the patient. Allowing the patient to speak and the student nurse to listen helped ease the patient's mind.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of having families discuss treatment options, including end-of-life decisions before a loved one becomes ill or early in a terminal illness.

A clear understanding of what is essential to patients, families, and health care practitioners at the end of life is critical to the success of improving care for dying patients. There are some drawbacks to allowing the families of these virulent patients to make treatment decisions for their loved ones. Everyone in the family may not agree, which could lead to more issues with their overall mental health. Patients' families may face increased psychological morbidity due to end-of-life decision-making. Another disadvantage would be that it would put a significant strain on the relationships between family members.

However, families may have an advantage in selecting treatment options for their loved one's end-of-life care. Families could have overall peace of mind and assistance in planning funeral expenses and saying their final goodbyes. When a patient dies, addressing financial issues reduces the stress on the entire family. When allowing families to decide on end-of-life care, the patient may feel relieved that there is not a massive burden on the shoulders of the family members. Choosing the right treatment option is entirely up to the patient, and each

experience will be different. Always remember to put the patient first, regardless of anything else.