

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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4/22/2022

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What was learned from this scenario?

At the end of life, many older adults want to be comfortable and wish to have their needs met. Often, their family members cannot accept the reality and want interventions taken on the patient. For instance, when the patient's daughter stated they were not ready for their mother to give up, making end-of-life decisions is difficult. It is essential to consider the patient's feelings before making any decisions. Sometimes it is essential to accept the reality that there are patients who choose to be on DNR. Families need to communicate thoroughly with each other to ensure the patient is happy during their end-of-life care.

Identify the biggest takeaways.

a) Explain the factors that influenced this decision.

The most important thing during end-of-life care is to keep the patient comfortable. The patient usually prefers to have minimal distraction and wishes to remain at peace throughout the day. The patient's grandchildren were arguing in the background, and the patient stated they were not comfortable. It almost seemed as if the patient was overwhelmed. It is essential to respect the patient's decision when they want to sleep. It is essential to ask the patient what they want their end-of-life care to be like, so the nurse knows the necessary interventions.

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

There were several arguments between the patient's family members in the scenario. The patient was not able to remain comfortable during their stay. For instance, the daughter stated they did not want a chaplain to communicate with the patient. Along with that, there was much commotion that prevented the patient from being comfortable. The patient needs to take rest throughout the day. It is essential to understand that patients receiving end-of-life care wish to meet their needs. Ultimately, it is their choice on how they want their care to be.

What were some of the challenging decisions the nurse needed to make?**a) Describe the rationale behind these decisions.**

The nurse faced several challenges when deciding on the patient's care. Both the daughters wanted their mother's treatment to go their way. The nurse was confused about what she should do to keep everyone satisfied with the end-of-life care. For example, one daughter wanted her mother to get pain medications while the other did not. The nurse was hearing two different points of view, and it seemed as if the nurse wanted to ask the patient if she wanted pain medications or not. In the end, the nurse needed to ask the patient if she wanted her pain medications. There was also a concern that one of the daughters would not have liked the decision, but it is the nurse's job to ensure the patient gets what they want and they are comfortable.

What factors influenced the nursing decisions and responses during the scenario?**a) Explain the response.**

The nurse responded that she wanted to discuss this with the patient's family, knowing some differences in their mother's treatment.

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

In the scenario, the nurse had difficulty coming up with an agreement. Both the daughters were arguing and were not giving the patient a chance to decide how they wanted their treatment to be life. The nurse will have a conversation with the entire family prior to the patient's treatment. The communication will understand the families' expectations of the patient's treatment plan. The nurse will also ensure that the patient has their needs met. Communication will help prevent any controversies.

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.**

There has been a similar situation experienced during clinical. There was a family member who wanted the patient to receive further treatment. The patient refused and stated that they chose to be on DNR. The family member was undoubtedly upset, and the nurse had to go with the patient's decision. The nurse had to follow the patient's wishes no matter how upset the family member was. The nurse did try to comfort the family member and ensured the patient communicated their wishes to their family members.

There were several communication strategies used in the clinical setting. Therapeutic communication helped the family member to understand many aspects of end-of-life care. The

nurse had a one-on-one talk with the family member, explaining how to keep the patient comfortable and meet their needs. The nurse made sure the family member addressed any concerns they had. The family member understood the situation and felt more relieved after the conversation with the staff member.

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.

There are several advantages and disadvantages of having families discuss end-of-life care. Family members can get into disagreements about how they want the patient's care to be. An advantage of discussing treatment options would guide healthcare professionals on how to care for patients. In the scenario, the family members had difficulties agreeing on the patient's care, making it difficult for the nurse to decide on the necessary interventions. Communication between staff, patients, and family members is essential to ensure the patient is kept comfortable and given the quality of end-of-life care that meets the patient's needs.