

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?

Based on this scenario, the student learned that end of life could be difficult for some family members to understand, but patience is essential. As the nurse, it is vital to understand that the patient's family cares. However, the patient's wishes are what the nurse should prioritize, providing resources for the family such as support groups.

Identify the biggest takeaways.

Some of the biggest takeaways from the case study video was that it is crucial to be understanding for both the patient and their family. Death may be scary for many people because those people might be saddened to continue living without that person who impacted their lives. If a family member needs a little help getting around to the fact that the patient would like end-of-life care, try to be there as support and allow them to come to terms with the decision.

a) Explain the factors that influenced this decision.

Some factors that influenced this decision would be one of the daughters not ready to let go other their mother so that daughter tries to stop what the other daughter is trying to keep their mother's wishes. Throughout the video, the daughter who is afraid to let their mother go, is against the wishes of their mother. The nurse understands that there are differences but ultimately it is the patient's wishes that are needed to be met. So, the hospital and care team try to hear both daughters and discusses the plans for the patient's wishes and how to get everyone to be supportive and understanding.

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

One of the main problems expressed in this scenario would be that one support team member for the patient had different views from the patient and other members. One of the patient's daughters feared letting their mother continue with end-of-life care. The daughter would go against what the other daughter and nurse would say the patient would want or start palliative treatment.

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

a) Describe the rationale behind these decisions.

One challenging decision the nurse had to make was stopping treatment for the patient because one daughter did not want the same treatment done for her mother as the other daughter. The nurse had to see why that daughter felt that way. Then develop a new plan of care that both the patient and her daughters were comfortable with and would best fit the patient's wishes.

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 had to ensure that the patient's needs and wishes were met. In caring for the patient, the patient's family needed to be on board with the end-of-life care that the patient wanted. The nurse would involve the hospital in making any changes that made the patient's family feel at ease with the treatment —answering any questions the daughters had and providing resources that best fit the situation.

If the scenario presents again to the nurse, the nurse will already know what actions to take. Understanding why that person feels the way they do and giving them full attention makes them feel heard. Understandably, it is difficult for any family member to come to terms with end-of-life care.

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 was this one experience during a clinical rotation where a nurse had to change the care plan for a patient to hospice care because the patient's health was declining. The nurse and charge nurse worked with the family and hospital to provide the care needed for the patient whose health was declining. The patient had more family members visit throughout the day, and many were emotional. As a nursing student, this experience was an eye-opener and allowed the student to learn how to help the grieving family and patient.

During this situation, many successful communication strategies were used. However, one stuck when the nurse provided the patient and family members resources and information on hospice and palliative care. The nurse communicated with the family on support groups and answered any family questions. Allowing the patient or their family members to voice their questions or thoughts is critical.

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.

An advantage to discussing treatment options for end-of-life decisions before a loved one becomes ill would be allowing the patient and their family to learn about what would happen when that time comes, and they will be better prepared. A disadvantage is that the difficulties a dying patient must overcome are significant and may be overpowering. These difficulties include the necessity to deal with seemingly unimportant duties at the end of life, physical discomfort, sadness, a range of deep emotions, the loss of dignity, and hopelessness.