

Reflective Case Study Gerontology Assignment:

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

Miranda Sentelle

Lakeview College of Nursing

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What was learned from this scenario?

The lesson from this scenario was that patients expressed discomfort and wished to be placed in hospice since they were too exhausted to continue. The patient's family was divided since just one member agreed with the patient's wishes while the other family member held different opinions because the patient wasn't ready. It was difficult for the nurse to advocate the patient's wishes to stop the treatment and go for hospice while managing the patient's family's wants.

Identify the most significant takeaways.

a) Explain the factors that influenced this decision.

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

The patient's advanced lung cancer and COPD were deciding factors in this decision. The lung cancer is so advanced that even though the patient was once on a ventilator and managed to survive if she were to be placed back on it, she would probably never be able to come off it again. As a result, the patient is starting to feel too uncomfortable to continue and prefers the hospice option.

The patient and the patient's two daughters were some of the main problems or key issues expressed in the scenario. The patient in the setting claimed she was exhausted and couldn't continue. The patient requested the hospice choice. The oldest daughter understands the mother's discomfort and lack of desire to continue. The younger daughter feels their mother isn't prepared for hospice care and is opposed to their mother being placed on it.

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

In one phase of the simulation, the patient was in discomfort, and the daughters were debating whether or not their mother required medications for the pain. This presented the nurse with some difficult choices by listening to each daughter's concern for the patient receiving

medication. Another challenging decision was going to the charge nurse and the provider to discuss discontinuing the patient's treatment while considering the daughter's feelings but supporting the patient's wishes.

a) Describe the rationale behind these decisions.

The rationale for these decisions was that one daughter's concern was that if her mother took the medication, she might fall asleep and not be reawaken. Bring up the question of whether the patient needs the medication. After making this choice, the nurse began advocating for the patient's wishes and sought advice from the provider and charge nurse on how to approach the patient's wishes with the family.

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

The two daughters again played a role in the nursing decisions and responses during the stimulation because they both had very different views on their mother's health. Another factor was the nurse's decision to consult the charge nurse and the provider for assistance on how to handle the family.

a) Explain the response.

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

The patient's wants regarding her health and the provider's overall opinion of what is best for the patient's care plan will ultimately determine how the decisions are responded to.

If this situation recurs in the future, the nurse will respond by always advocating and supporting the patient's wishes, even if the patient's family disagrees with the decision. To ensure the patient is expressing their opinions, the nurse can always consult the charge nurse and patient care provider. Even

though the patient's family disagrees with their choice, the nurse will still advocate for the patient's rights while also offering the family support at difficult times.

Have similar situations been experienced in current clinical rotations?

A similar situation was experienced in a past clinical rotation. The patient's nursing home has a plan for their end-of-life care.

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

In that situation, the nurse and family respected the patient's desires. The patient was dying due to advancing age and minor health problems. The patient's only request during end-of-life treatment was to manage pain and keep their quality of life as much as possible. Because the patient only had her son, this clinical rotation differed from the stimulation. They agreed that the patient's wishes to manage her pain and maintain her quality of life were the appropriate approach.

A successful communication strategy used or experienced in the clinical setting was during morning rounds, the charge nurse and nursing student checked on the patient. The charge nurse prepared the medication to be administered because the patient expressed discomfort throughout the night. The charge nurse inquires about the patient's pain location and requests that they rate their level of discomfort on a scale of 1 to 10. The nurse then asks the patient whether they have any special comfort requirements. The nurse spent time with the patient, asking her questions to ease her discomfort, explaining her daily care plan, and finding out if she had any more questions or concerns. About thirty minutes after giving her the pain medicine, the nurse returned and asked her to rank her pain on a scale of 1 to 10.

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.

Some advantage of having families discuss treatment options, including end-of-life decisions before a loved one becomes ill or early in a terminal illness, is that the families can have an opinion of what they might consider best for the patient's health. The families can express their feelings about their loved ones dying. The nurse can provide emotional support to the families in need of accepting the patient's illness. The disadvantage of this will be that the family disagrees with the patient's choice regarding their health. The patient will not receive full support from their family and get the required rest for their health. Another disadvantage is not giving the proper goodbye if the families are fighting because of a disagreement.