

Client Comfort and End of Life Care Reflection

Tracy Donaldson

Lakeview College of Nursing

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What was learned from this scenario?

I learned that there can be many different opinions from family members regarding end-of-life decisions for a client, which can result in difficulties and arguments among each other. Nurses must ensure they support the patient, honor their wishes, keep everyone else informed, and keep the peace. They should also support the family, but realize the number one priority is the client and their decision.

Identify the biggest takeaways.

1. Explain the factors that influenced this decision.

The biggest takeaway from this scenario was that the client was already going through so much, such as emotional and physical pain within her body. Then, she had to listen to her family argue over her healthcare and, ultimately, her decision. The factors that influenced this decision were watching the chaos in the video as the client was trying to deal with the situation and get some much-needed rest.

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

The main problem is the client wants to stop treatment and do palliative care. However, the sisters disagree over every aspect of their mother's care. They argued about pain medication, the chaplain, and also made the patient feel guilty for making her own choices. There was also too much chaos in the room.

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

1.

a. Describe the rationale behind these decisions.

The nurse needed to ensure everyone in the room was peaceful, including the children, so that the client could rest. Second, the nurse also had to be assertive and ask the doctor to explain the client's wishes for palliative care to the family again. Lastly, the nurse had to speak up and tell the family that "we need to ask your mother if she wants the medication." Instead of letting the sisters argue about it.

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?

It would have helped if the client informed the nurse of all of her wishes. Therefore, she would know when to tell the sisters what was decided. If the nurse responds to this scenario again, understanding every aspect of the client's decision about her healthcare would help her speak up and let the family know of the client's wishes.

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 only time I can think of a somewhat similar situation in a clinical setting was when a client's daughter-in-law called and wanted to speak to the nurse regarding an infection in the client's leg. The client did not wish the daughter-in-law to talk to anyone about it, and the nurse politely told her the client's wishes were for her not to speak to her about her medical care. This situation did not have to do with hospice or end-of-life care, but it was similar in that the client wanted to make her own decisions regarding the care of her infection. Therapeutic communication is always the most successful strategy in the clinical setting because it allows clients or families to open up and express their concerns.

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 advantages of having families discuss treatment options are being able to bounce thoughts off of people who care for the client and having them there to answer if they can assist with any duties that may arise regarding end-of-life care. Some disadvantages are they may not be able to accept the client's decisions regarding end-of-life care, making it difficult for the client to voice their opinion freely. Also, the emotions may be too high in the room for a good discussion regarding treatment options.