

Palliative and Hospice Care Reflection

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How can the nurse ensure that a client receiving palliative/hospice care is kept comfortable? What are some ways that the nurse could provide for the psychosocial and spiritual comfort of the client?

A nurse is able to ensure the client is kept comfortable by assessing pain regularly using a scale or discussing client symptoms directly with the client or family. A nurse has many responsibilities when ensuring a client is kept comfortable during palliative or hospice care. Pain management, whether pharmacological or not, is the biggest task the nurse is faced with. The nurse is the primary administrator and evaluator of pain medications, as well as holding the responsibility of repositioning the client to achieve comfort. Nurses are also responsible for providing a listening ear or performing spiritual requests for the client and family.

How can the nurse provide support for the family/loved ones of the dying client?

The nurse provides support for a dying client's family by providing a listening ear, providing information, and advocating for their concerns. Listening to the client's family is the most important way to help them through the grieving process. By listening it is easier to identify what resources the family is in need of.

What feelings occurred when interacting with a person with a life-limiting illness?

Sadness and empathy are feelings that occur when interacting with a person who is suffering from a life-limiting illness. Death and dying is not an easy process for anyone involved and can illicit many emotions.

Were the feelings or emotions adequately handled?

Yes, I feel that the feelings and emotions were adequately handled.

Was there adequate communication with the ill person?

Yes, I feel that there was adequate communication with the ill person.

How did the person with the life-limiting illness feel during their interactions?

I am sure the person with the life-limiting illness felt fear, sadness, and lack of comfort with the situation. Even when everything is handled appropriately the death and dying process still elicits many emotions.

Could the interactions have been improved in any way? How?

Interactions can always be improved. As a nurse, you always move on and grow from the experiences you have including those of the death and dying process. Interactions could be improved by adjusting tone to be more comforting and including the family more.