



Psychological Considerations

Unit 1 Part 3
Pages 132-134

1



INTERACTING WITH THE
TERMINALLY ILL PATIENT

2

- Unexpected death is much more complicated than anticipated death
- Eventually you will experience patient death during imaging procedures
- Calling a “false alarm” emergency code is always better than waiting too long to save a patient
- Most hospitals can offer assistance dealing with personal feelings about caring for terminally ill

3

Understanding the Process



- Awareness
 - Closed - not told of condition
 - Suspicious - watch for clues of their condition, but tries not to let anyone know how knowledgeable they are
 - Mutual pretense - all know but pretend not to know to avoid interpersonal conflicts
 - Open - permits everyone to work through various stages that precede death

4

Patient Autonomy

- Pg 122 – defined as ability and right of patients to make independent decisions regarding their medical care
- Doctors and Patients working together on how the patient's symptoms are controlled
- How conscious and alert patient's desire is at life's end
- As a radiologic technologist, you should be aware that some of your patients have made life choices and abide by their wishes

5

Patient Support Services

-  Hospice care
-  Home healthcare services
-  Social services
-  Organizations for person with specific terminal diseases (patient-to-patient)
-  Pastoral and religious services
-  Psychological support groups
-  Family and Friends

6

Aspects of Death



PHYSICAL



EMOTIONAL



PERSONAL

7

Physical aspects of death

Confusion – about time, place, and identity of loved ones; visions of people and places that are not present

A **decreased need** for food and drink, as well as loss of appetite

Drowsiness – an increased need for sleep and unresponsiveness

Withdrawal and decreased socialization

Loss of bowel or bladder control – caused by relaxing muscles in the pelvic area

Skin becomes **cool** to the touch

Rattling or gurgling sounds while breathing or breathing that is irregular and shallow, decreased number of breaths per minute, or breathing that switches between rapid and slow

Involuntary movements (called myoclonus), changes in heart rate, and loss of reflexes in the legs and arms also mean that the end of life is near

http://currentnursing.com/reviews/care_of_dying_and_death.html

8

Emotional aspects of death

- o Grief and mourning are natural and necessary parts of the healing process after a loss



Personal aspects of death

- o Affects all in some way
- o Everyone grieves at a different pace
- o Be patient, give self time to grieve
- o Personal support of family, friends, and clergy
- o Some grieving individuals who experience grief in ways that impact their ongoing ability to function may need to seek professional help

<http://www.helpstarthere.org/health-wellness/about-death-and-dying.html>

9

Kubler-Ross

Stages of Death and Dying

- Denial – refuses to believe
- Anger – when no longer able to deny
- Bargaining – accepts death, but wants more time
- Depression – realizes death will come soon
- Acceptance – understands and accepts the fact they are going to die

<https://empowercommunityhealth.org/death-and-dying/>

10

Factors Affecting Patient's Emotional Responses

1. Age
2. Gender
3. Marital/family status
4. Socioeconomic factors
5. Cultural /religious variations
6. Physical condition
7. Self-image
8. Past health care experiences
9. Beliefs
10. Attitudes
11. Prejudices
12. Self-awareness

11

Grief and Counseling

- o Grieving the death of a loved one is of course entirely natural
- o During counseling, a counselor will:
 - Have the person talk about the deceased
 - Distinguish grief from trauma
 - Deal with guilt and help them organize the grief



12



13

Advance Directive

Legal document which lists patient preferences regarding specific medical interventions



14

- Used at end of life when patient is unable to make their own health care decisions
- Types:
 - Living Will or
 - Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care



- **Sample living wills can be obtained (Free)
- National Partnership for Caring, Inc.
 - Tailored to each state's requirements

15

ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

- Medical decisions needing a living will include:
 - Use of CPR
 - Use of intubation
 - Tube feeding
 - Administration of blood products
 - Surgery
 - Dialysis
 - Organ donation
 - Chemotherapy

16

ADVANCE DIRECTIVES



- All inpatients are asked upon admission if they have a signed advance directive
 - If yes, advance directive is included in chart
 - If no, documentation of the lack of an advanced directive is made in chart

This documentation is required by all facilities which receive federal funding

17

Date: 8/01/06

I. ORIGIN: MD Office SurgCenter
 PAT Lab ECU
 Nursing Unit Admissions Office

II. PATIENT HAS AN ADVANCE DIRECTIVE: Initials

A. If patient/significant other has an Advance Directive in his/her possession:
 Date the Advance Directive placed on chart 8/01/06 DATE: WJB

B. If patient/significant other does not have Advance Directive in his/her possession:

1. Date which the patient/significant other was advised to bring Advance Directive to Hospital. DATE:

2. Did patient execute an Advance Directive on a previous admission which is known to express the patient's current wishes? Yes No Decline

3. Date the Advance Directive placed on chart. DATE:

III. PATIENT DOES NOT HAVE AN ADVANCE DIRECTIVE:

A. Patient/significant other has received information on Advance Directive. Yes No Decline

Reason Deferred: _____

B. Patient/significant other has been advised to discuss questions about Advance Directive with his/her physician. DATE:

C. Patient/significant other declines information on Advance Directive at this time. DATE:

Initials Signature Initials Signature
WJB Deane Swallow _____ _____

123456 60710 071008 THE READING HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER
 PATIENT, MARY C100 5 **DOCUMENTATION FORM**
 SHELBY COUNTY COMMONS FH 83TH **FOR ADVANCE DIRECTIVE**
 LEADING PA 19604 MSP H
 DR. SMITH MED RH 3018 7.95
 PATIENT, JOHN C 6103780000

18

RESUSCITATION STATUS

Physician Orders: Life-Sustaining Treatment

Patient may choose resuscitation (CPR) or

choose a DNR status (Do Not Resuscitate)

AND (allow natural death)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Code Status Information | |
| Code Status | |
| Full Code | |
| Modified Resuscitation Specifics: | |
| Discussed with: | Patient |

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Code Status Information | |
| Code Status | |
| Allow Natural Death (DNR) | |
| Modified Resuscitation Specifics: | |
| Discussed with: | Family Member |
| Resuscitation Status during a procedure?: | FULL CODE during a procedure |

| | |
|---|--|
| Code Status Information | |
| Code Status | |
| Modified Code | |
| Modified Resuscitation Specifics: | |
| Modified Code: | Ventilation Permitted but No Cardiac Resuscitation |
| Discussed with: | Child |
| Resuscitation Status during a procedure?: | DNR during a procedure |

19

The Reading Hospital and Medical Center (an Avera Health System, West Reading, PA 19811)

**This is a Physician Order Sheet based on the person's medical condition and wishes.
 Use section and completed function full treatment for that section.
 Everyone shall be treated with dignity and respect.
 These orders apply only during the time the patient is in a TRHMC facility.**

Patient Name _____ Date of Birth _____

A. CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR): PERSON HAS NO PULSE AND IS NOT BREATHING.

Resuscitate / CPR

Do Not Attempt Resuscitation (DNR/no CPR)

IMPORTANT Note: By Hospital policy, DNR orders are suspended during surgery, anesthesia or other invasive procedures or therapies that could result in death. After an informed discussion, the patient or surrogate and physician may elect to continue the DNR order. This decision must be well documented.

Procedure Status: The DNR status shall not be suspended. The hospital policy noted above is declined after discussion with any patient and/or surrogate.

When not in cardiopulmonary arrest, follow orders B, C, D, and E.

B. MEDICAL INTERVENTIONS: PERSON HAS PULSE AND/OR IS BREATHING

Comfort Measures only. Use medication by any route, oxygen, positioning, wound care, and other measures to relieve pain and suffering. Include the use of artificial hydration and nutrition unless specified in section D.

Do not call MATT.

Limited Additional Interventions. Includes care described above, use medical treatment, IV fluids, and cardiac monitor as indicated. Do not use intubation or mechanical ventilation. Could use BIPAP if indicated unless specified in section E.

- Transfer to acute care from rehabilitation or psychiatric area if indicated.

- Avoid transfer to intensive care.

- May call MATT if indicated.

Full Treatment. Includes care described above. Use intubation, advanced airway interventions, mechanical ventilation, and cardioversion as indicated.

- Transfer to acute care from rehabilitation or psychiatric area if indicated.

- May transfer to intensive care if indicated.



000010

20

RESUSCITATION STATUS

DNR orders are suspended for certain hospital procedures

Surgery

IV contrast
administration

Invasive
procedures



Patient must choose box to continue DNR status during these procedures if this is the patient's wish

23

RESUSCITATION STATUS FOR OUTPATIENTS

Some outpatients may enter the hospital with specific PA Out-of-Hospital DNR Orders

This form must be honored for all procedures

Some outpatients may not have the form but will have a bracelet or necklace in its place

This form of DNR identification should be honored as well

24

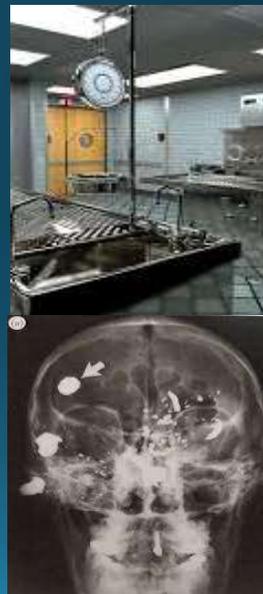


HOW DO YOU PERCEIVE A
DYING PATIENT AS A
HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL????

27

As an x-ray technologist, you may be present
when a patient dies

- Code called but patient could not be resuscitated
- Trauma patient presents DOA or shortly after arrival
- Images needed on a "brain dead" patient before organ donation
- Images needed in the morgue for an autopsy
- Images needed on stillborn babies or those who have died shortly after being born



28

- It is important to do your job professionally while treating the deceased patient with dignity
- It is acceptable to express emotions after the fact
- Crying is O.K.— WE ARE ALL HUMAN!
- If you witness something tragic, please contact faculty and we will provide proper direction and support



If you need to discuss your feelings with someone, contact:

Quest
1-800-364-6352

29

Other Programs the Hospital Offers

No One Dies Alone



- Volunteer Companion Program
 - Volunteer provides companionship to dying patient
- Anyone can volunteer
 - Employees
- Call Volunteer Services Department for more information Extension 8477

30

PERINATAL AND INFANT LOSS



- Perinatal and Infant Loss Bereavement Support Team
- Yellow rose placed on doors and charts of patients who have suffered a loss

31

History Taking

Most critical and valuable diagnostic tool

Pages 135-139



32

Clinical History



Describes the information available about the patient's condition

Must get pertinent information from the patient for the radiologist to properly interpret images

Learn methods of accomplishing a valid patient interview is important as a technologist

33



History Taking

- Obtain clinical information to contribute to diagnosis process
 - Pain in right hand vs. Pain over anterior aspect of the distal portion of the 2nd metacarpal
- Explain the purpose :
 - "I need to ask you just a few questions to verify your information for the radiologist. It is important that the doctor looking at your x-rays knows this information. I apologize if any of the questions are things you have answered before."
- *Art of Healing* - take genuine interest in what the patient is saying

34

Desirable Qualities in an Interviewer (RT)

Respect



ALWAYS introduce yourself and your title!
Use Mr. and Ms. Instead of 1st name

Genuineness



Be polite and professional. Explain that we just need to ask a few questions for the radiologist

Empathy



Share your concern and understanding by nodding, take notes. Answer their questions

If lacking any of the above = decrease in good faith of the patient;
Information may be withheld

35

Data Collection Process

- **Objective:** signs that can be seen, heard, felt, smelled or read on a chart
 - **Subjective:** data perceived *only by patient* = emotions, level of pain
- Neither one is necessarily more important*
- Ask patient to **define and clarify**
 - Pain – question is it localized and when did it start?



36


 A graphic on the left side of the slide features several stylized, overlapping question marks in shades of blue and teal, set against a dark teal background.

Questioning Skills

- Open ended questions “*what kind of trouble are you having that you’re getting a chest x-ray today?*”
- Facilitation (nod, umhum, “go on”) to encourage more detail
- Silence (yes silence is a communication SKILL) – gives patient time to remember, reflect...
- Probing questions (try to get more detail) “*how long has this been going on?*”
- Repetition (rewording or reflecting) – helps clarify and validate
- Summarization (Condense) – verify accuracy

37

LEADING QUESTIONS


 A graphic on the left side of the slide shows a large question mark shape filled with a word cloud of various question words such as 'WHAT?', 'WHEN?', 'HOW?', 'WHERE?', and 'WHO?' in different colors and sizes.

- Best to avoid leading questions
- Patients may say what they think you want to hear instead of what is actually happening
 - “Does the pain radiate into your back?”
 - Leading question
 - “Does the pain stay in one place, or radiate anywhere?”
 - Allows patient to consider the true course of the pain

38

What are parts of clinical history?

Chief
Complaint

“Sacred
Seven”

Vital signs

Pregnancy
and LMP

Allergies

39

CHIEF COMPLAINT



Single most important
issue of the patient's
clinical history



Allows the Radiologist
to focus on a specific
area for diagnosis



Sometimes a patient
may have more than
one chief complaint



Do **not** need to obtain
a complete medical
history

40

CHIEF COMPLAINT (ICD-10 code)

“why is the patient
here today?”

Symptoms

Incidental finding and asymptomatic
Coughing
Expectoration
Chest pain
Hemoptysis
Shortness of breath
Chest distress
Back pain
Other symptoms
Fever
Fatigue
Headache
Weight loss
Shoulder pain
Hoarseness
Other signs
Abdominal pain
Nausea
Vomiting
Palpitation

41

Sacred Seven



LOCALIZATION



CHRONOLOGY



QUALITY



SEVERITY



ONSET

AGGRAVATING OR
ALLEVIATING
FACTORSASSOCIATED
MANIFESTATIONS

42

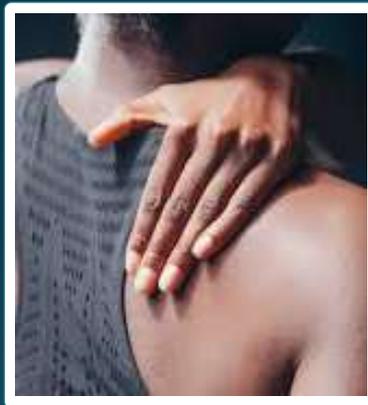
Sacred Seven in Radiology



- As a radiologic technologist, we typically do not need to compile a complete medical history on patients – this is completed by physician and/or nurse
- Our role is to collect a focused history specific to the procedure being performed
- Obtain information that is clinically applicable for the radiologist to dictate images appropriately. This will be based off procedure, diagnosis code and comes with experience

43

Sacred Seven: Localization



- Define the exact, precise area of concern of the Chief Complaint.
- May need to use touch:
 - *touching for emphasis* - involves using touch to highlight specific locations
 - *touching for palpitation* – applying fingers with light pressure to help localize pain areas and for positioning
- Some pain is “non-localized” and patient may not have a complaint to a specific region

44

Sacred Seven: Chronology

• TIME

- Duration since onset
 - (Example: "How long has this been going on?")
- Frequency – *not necessarily pertinent to radiology*
 - (Example: "How often has it happened since then?" ex. Several times per hour?)
- Course - *not necessarily pertinent to radiology*
 - (Example: "How long does the cough last?" ex. lasts for a few minutes)
- Use number of days or months vs. "last Thursday"

45

Sacred Seven: Quality

Character of the symptom

- Color, consistency of body fluids
- Presence of clots
- **Size of lumps**
- **Type of cough (dry, hacking, productive)**
- **Pain – where, type, describe, burning, throbbing, sharp, etc.**

Most clinically applicable for radiology:

- **lump (hard, soft, palpable), productive or dry cough, if patient offers the words pressure, stabbing, burning pain – okay to add to document**

46

Sacred Seven: Severity



Intensity



Quantity



Extent

Examples: multiple lacerations across posterior hand,
road rash entire lateral femur

47

Sacred Seven: Onset



- What were you doing when it happened?
- At night when in bed vs. with exercise? (on exertion?)
- Anything unusual happen when this first occurred?

More clinically applicable:

Use **diagnosis code** to assist you with questions. Injury? MVA?

48

Sacred Seven: Aggravating or Alleviating Factors



WHAT HELPS?



WHAT MAKES IT
WORSE?

Most clinically appropriate:

Valuable questions when performing fluoroscopy procedures.
Patient may state that "shoulder hurts more when raising arm"

49

Sacred Seven: Associated Manifestations



- Do other symptoms accompany the condition? Some symptoms/illnesses may affect other body parts

50

Examples of history documentation



- Lower back pain radiating into left leg, for 2 weeks, worse when laying down. Hx of MVC 5 years ago, no recent injury
- Burning epigastric pain, nausea, vomiting for 1 day
- Multiple lacerations on forehead and right cheek S/P MVC today. Headache and nausea



- Lower back pain, worse with sitting, feels better with Tylenol and heat. Pain happens several times an hour
- Stomach pain for 1 day, vomiting clear fluids
- Car accident, pain in forehead

51

Examples of history documentation

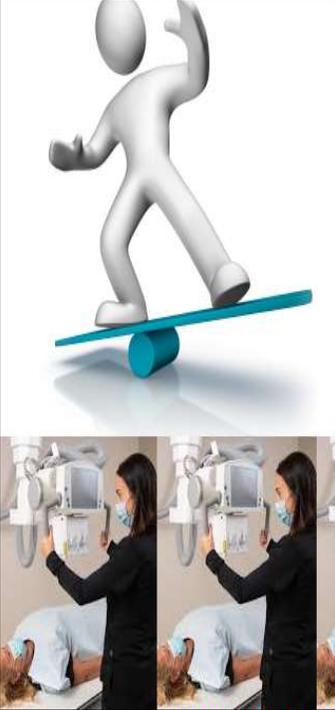


- Right side anterior chest pressure on exertion for 3 days, pain radiates down right arm, Hx of OHS 2 years ago
- Swelling and pain left lateral ankle post fall this morning, bruising laterally. Pain with weightbearing
- Productive cough with shortness of breath intermittently for 1 week, Hx of recent bronchitis



- Intense chest pressure when exercising and walking up steps, pain goes down patient's humerus and forearm. Pain started Sunday. Patient had OHS and throat surgery
- Fell, ankle pain, feels better with ice and raising leg
- Cough with green phlegm, SOB

52



What other things are you (RT) assessing while taking history and obtaining images?

- Condition of the patient
 - Balance/mobility
 - Level of Consciousness
 - Range of Motion
 - Pain
 - Vital signs (later)

53

Ending the History Taking: *Procedure Questions and Explanations*

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Explain | Explain the positioning ("I'll be taking several images of your neck in different positions" or explain the fluoro procedure) |
| ↓ | |
| Time | State the approximate length of procedure ("this will take about 10 minutes") |
| ↓ | |
| Devices | Explain why you will need to use immobilization devices ("I just need to use this cushion to roll you up for another view of your spine") |
| ↓ | |
| Inform | Inform the patient about the machine movement/sounds ("the machine is going to come over top of you, but not touch you") |
| ↓ | |
| Questions | ALWAYS allow them to ask any concerns or questions |

54



55