

Aiming to achieve realistic bereavement care throughout Greater Glasgow & Clyde



The Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice



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Introduction

"How people die remains in the memory of those who live on."
Dame Cicely Saunders, 1918-2005

Facilitating a good death can impact positively on grief and bereavement.
GLGDGG

In GG&C, 57% of deaths occur in acute hospitals (ISD, 2014). As health care professionals we are in a privileged position to strive for good deaths; enabling practitioners to be open and equipped to talk about death, dying and bereavement reduces negative experiences.
GLGDGG

Aim

To increase practitioners' confidence and competence when dealing with death, dying and bereavement.

To raise awareness of resources and processes to improve the experience of those affected by death, dying and bereavement in all care settings.

Method

The authors attended "Assessment and Management in Palliative Care", a five day module co-facilitated by palliative care HCPs from The Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde.

Practitioners were enabled to improve practice through various projects in their areas of work including: ICU, paediatrics, acute surgical receiving, orthopaedics, ENT, tissue viability, respiratory and general medicine.

Various approaches were adopted to improve patients and relatives experience of death, dying and bereavement outwith the specialist palliative care environment.



Results

Theory to practice projects included:

Introduction of organza bags for hair and jewellery plus hand printing for memory making

Brightest star bereavement boxes

Death certification checklist

Raising awareness of resources and processes

Care after death boxes.



Next steps

Disseminate practice and secure funding to embed projects in daily practice.

Maintain partnership working to improve practice.

Personal conclusions

"Checklists offer a practical tool for HCPs to ensure death certification is correctly achieved and families are well supported during what is often a difficult and daunting time."
Holly

"Bringing organza bags to the unit to allow relatives to take home 'memories' of their loved ones has created enthusiasm amongst staff and we look forward to developing other memory-making initiatives to aid bereavement."
Emily & Jennifer

"My care after death box was received enthusiastically by all staff, from lead nurse to HCAs. It has been utilised many times. I was able to do this because of knowledge gained from this course."
Karis

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