

Seminar Notes and Activities

End-of-Life Care Seminar – Effective teamwork in end-of-life care

Group discussions:

1. Who is part of your team? How many teams are you a part of?
2. Make a list of the people your patients might view as being part of their healthcare team.
3. Do you think effective teamwork makes a difference? Why? Give some examples.
4. Do you feel safe to raise a concern about end-of-life care with a co-worker? Why or why not?
5. Are you able to speak up or advocate for patient care when, for instance:
 - You see a patient in pain and no one else agrees or prioritises assessment.
 - The treating team is planning further invasive treatment (chemotherapy or surgery) and the patient tells you they have had enough of being in hospital and being treated like a pincushion.
 - Your ward has the highest death rate in the hospital, and you have an idea to screen all patients with serious illness for end-of-life routinely, however your manager is resistant.
6. What steps can you put into your practice tomorrow to enhance your team and allow partnership with the patient and family?
7. Discuss potential conflict in teams and why this might happen in end-of-life care. Have you seen good examples of how conflict is managed? Have you seen poor examples of how conflict is managed? What could have been handled differently in either scenario?

