

The need for bereavement education

- Browning, D. M., Meyers, E. C., Truog, R. D., & Solomon, M. Z. (2007). Difficult conversations in health care: Cultivating Relational learning to address the hidden curriculum. *Medical Education*, 82(9), 905-913.
A description of the relational learning education approach that RTS utilizes.
- Lawrence, N. (2010). Care of bereaved parents after sudden infant death. *Emergency Nurse*, 18(3) 22-25.
A review of multiple articles that conclude the need for education to reduce nurse anxiety for caring for the dying.
- Peters, L., Cant, R., Payne, S., O'Connor, M., McDermott, F., Hood, K., Morphet, J., & Shimoinaba, K. (2013). How death anxiety impacts nurses' caring for patients at the end of life: A review of literature. *The Open Nursing Journal*, 7, 14-21.
A discussion on the anxiety experienced by nurses when caring for those who are dying. Concludes that education on end- of-life care decreases nurse anxiety.
- Zhang, W., & Lane, B. S. (2013). Promoting neonatal staff nurses' comfort and involvement in end of life and bereavement care. *Nursing Research and Practice*, 2013, ID 36539. Retrieved from <http://www.hindawi.com/journals/nrp/2013/365329>
Discussion on the need for education to improve comfort in providing bereavement care.

The need for supporting the management of health professionals' grief after the death of a patient

- Bateman, S. T., Dixon R., & Trozzi, M. (2012). The wrap-up: A unique forum to support pediatric residents when faced with the death of a child. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 15(2), 1329-1333.
Description of a form of multidisciplinary debriefing called a “wrap-up” that was found to assist with processing, understanding, and resolving pediatric death experiences.
- Keene, E. A., Hutton, N., Hall, B., & Rushton, C. (2010). Bereavement debriefing sessions: An intervention to support health care professionals in managing their grief after the death of a patient. *Pediatric Nursing*, 36(4) 185-189.

Nurses self-report the need for grief care to be offered to health care professionals through opportunities to make meaning and educational, clinical, and emotional support.

RTS training provides informational and clinical support throughout and has a section specifically dedicated to caring for the care giver. RTS emphasizes the value of involving the relationship the care provider had with the patient. Bereavement debriefings are highlighted as an opportunity to provide emotional support and create meaning of these relationships.

- Puia, D. M., Lewis, L., & Beck, C. T. (2013). Experiences of obstetric nurses who are present for a perinatal loss. *Journal of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Neonatal Nursing*, 42, 321-331.
Provides research regarding the impact on obstetric nurses of perinatal loss—support for staff and time to recover recognized as top factors.

The need of parents for perinatal and child death support

- Gold, K.J., Dalton, V.K., & Schwenk, T.L. (2013). Hospital care for parents after perinatal death. *Journal of Palliative Care*, 29(2), 69-75.
Research results indicate families' appreciation of time and contact with their baby, having options provided by staff, and follow-up.
- Koopmans, L., Wilson, T., Cacciatore, J., & Flenady, V. (2013). Support for mothers, fathers and families after perinatal death. *Chochrane Database of Systematic*

Reviews,6,CD00452.

A review of the literature that indicates parental need for support when a child dies.

- McDonagh, J. R., Elliott, T. B., Engleberg, R. A., Treece, P. D., Shannon, S. E., Rubinfeld, G. D., Patrick, D. L., & Curtis, J. R. (2004). Family satisfaction with family conferences about end-of-life care in the intensive care unit: Increased proportion of family speech is associated with increased satisfaction. *Critical Care Medicine* 32(7), 1484-1488.
Data reflecting increased proportion of family speech significantly associated with increased family satisfaction with physician communication and with decreased family ratings of conflict with the physician.
- Meert, K. L., Eggly, S., Pollack, M., Anand, J.S., Zimmerman, J., Carcillo, J., Newth, C. J. L., ... & Nicholson, C. (2007). Parents' perspectives regarding a physician-parent conference after their child's death in the pediatric intensive care unit. *The Journal of Pediatrics*, 50-55.
Investigation on parents' need/desire to have follow-up meetings with medical professionals, including the physician, and/or follow-up phone calls or notes. RTS teaches the value of and steps for planning grief conferences and providing follow up for bereaved families.
- Nikkola, I., Kaunonen, M., & Aho, A.L. (2013). Supporting parents: Mother's experience of the support from a bereavement follow-up intervention after the death of a child. *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, 22, 1151-1162.
Discussion of the coping benefits to bereaved mothers provided by many types of informal and professional support after the death of a child, including long-term follow-up and social support from health care professionals.

The financial, legal, and customer satisfaction savings of bereavement programs

- Comans, T., Visser, V., & Scuffham, P. (2013). Cost effectiveness of a community-based crisis intervention program for people bereaved by suicide. *Crisis*, 34(6), 390-3977.
- Friedman, R., & Gradstein, B. (1996). *Surviving pregnancy loss*. (Rev. ed.) Boston: Little Brown & Co..
- Hickson, G. B., Federspiel, C. F., Pichert, J. W., Miller, C. S., Gauld-Jaeger, J., & Bost, P. (2002). Patient complaints and malpractice risk. *JAMA*. 287(22): 2951-2957.
- Johnson, L. J. (2011). Good rapport with patients helps lessen lawsuit risk. *Medical Economics*, 88(1), 65.
- Manser, T. (2011). Managing the aftermath of critical incidents: Meeting the needs of health-care providers and patients. *Best Practice & Research Clinical Anaesthesiology*, 25, 169-179.
- Peppers, L. G., & Knapp, R.J. (1980). *Motherhood and mourning*. New York: Praeger.
- Smith, S., Brick, A., O'Hara, S., & Normand, C. (2007). Evidence on the cost and cost-effectiveness of palliative care: A literature review. *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 109(5), 1156-1166.
- Starks, H., Wang, S., Farber, S., Owens, D. A., & Curtis, R. (2013). Cost savings vary by length of stay for inpatients receiving palliative care consultation services. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 16(10), 1215-1220.
- Virshup, B.B., Oppenberg, A. A., Coleman, M.M. (1999). Strategic risk management: Reducing malpractice claims through more effective patient-doctor communication. *American Journal of Medical Quality*. 14(4), 153-159.

The value of utilizing evidence-based practice

- Reigle, B.S., Stevens, K. R., Belcher, J. V., Huth, M. M., McGuire, E., Mals, D., & Volz, T. (2008). Evidence-based practice and the road to magnet status. *Journal of Nursing*

Positive use of photography

- Gold, K. J., Dalton, V. K., & Schwenk, T. L. (2007). Hospital care for parents after perinatal death. *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, 109(5), 1156-1166.
- Michelson, K. N., Blehart, K., Hochberg, T., & James, K. (2011). Bereavement photography for children: Program development and health care professionals' response. *Death Studies*, 37, 513-528.

The need for hope

- Feudtner, C., Santucci, G., Feinstein, J. A., Snyder, C. R., Rourke, M.T., & Kang, T. I. (2006). Hopeful thinking and level of comfort regarding providing pediatric palliative care: A survey of hospital nurses. *Pediatrics*, 119, e186-e193.

Articles that reflect the need for interdisciplinary care

- Smart, C.J., & Smith, B. L. (2013). A transdisciplinary team approach to perinatal loss. *Maternal Child Nursing*, 38(2), 110-114.
- Talsma, A., Grady, P. A., Feetham, S., Heinrich, J., & Steinwachs, D. M. (2008). The perfect storm: Patient safety and nursing shortages within the context of health policy and evidence-based practice. *Nursing Research* 57(1S), S15-S21.

The need for spirituality in health care

- Puchalski, C. M. (2001). The role of spirituality in health care. *BUMC Proceedings*, 14, 352-357.

The need for organized bereavement programs, follow up phone calls, and commemorative events

- Gold, K.J., Dalton, V.K., & Schwenk, T. L. (2007). Hospital care for parents after perinatal death. *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, 109(5), 1156-1166.
A systematic review of parental experiences with hospital care after perinatal death.
- Hottensen, D. (2013). Bereavement: Caring for families and friends after a patient dies. *Omega*, 67(1-2), 121-126.
Discussion of the positive impact follow up phone calls, condolence cards, support groups, and commemorative events on bereaved families and friends.

The need for empathetic communication

- Kelley, K. J., & Kelley, M. F. (2013). Teaching empathy and other compassion-based communication skills. *Journal of Nurses in Professional Development*, 29(6), 321-324.