

Vignette #3: 7.43-13.25

Remember this Song? (6 min.)



Objective

By the end of this vignette, viewers will be able to discuss examples of non-medical comfort measures that can bring peace and joy to patients.

Summary

This scene takes place in the hospital where Mrs. Marrero is in bed with her two adult children present. They are singing together.

Patients Highlighted

Nina Marrero, diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease six years ago, and her husband Raoul, diagnosed with end-stage cancer.

Discussion Points

Mrs. Marrero appears to be rather despondent. Her daughter mentions that she has had Alzheimer's disease for six years and that one day she just stopped talking. She says she wishes she could just have her mom back. Then she starts singing to her mother, and suddenly Mrs. Marrero starts singing along in Spanish. It is so touching that all the medications we have available to us cannot restore memory to Mrs. Marrero, and yet a beautiful song in her native tongue rolls out like she is a young woman again.

Discussion Question 1

What are some ways that we can ensure people are treated like people, first, and not just as patients?

Further Discussion/Points as Needed to Prompt Audience Interaction

What are some examples of non-medical comfort measures that may be used to help persons feel safe, connected, or secure in their physical setting, but also in their emotional and spiritual place in time? (examples may include particular songs/music, pictures, mementos, religious artifacts, paintings, an article of clothing, a blanket or pillow, a tape of birds singing, a scent).

Discussion Question 2

Reflect upon a situation where you may have thought that a patient could not see, hear, or perhaps understand you, and then suddenly they said or did something that surprised you. Can you share that situation and how it made you feel? What did you learn as a result of that encounter?

Further Discussion/Points as Needed to Prompt Audience Interaction

What did you learn as a result of that encounter?

Suggested Applicability to Nursing Courses and/or to Care Settings

Courses: Palliative/Hospice Care; Introduction to Nursing; Geriatric Nursing; Medical/Surgical Nursing; Mental Health Nursing; and any courses focused on culture, communication, spirituality. **Care Settings:** Orientation and/or in-service programs for health care providers in primary, acute, long term, hospice/palliative care, and/or home care settings.

Suggested Congruence with ELNEC Modules

Palliative Care Nursing; Cultural/Spiritual Considerations in End-of-Life Care; Communication.