Study Guide

defining hope

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Educational material created by Diana Mager, DNP, RN-BC, Associate Professor of Nursing, Fairfield University, for the American Nurses Foundation
Objective
By the end of this video segment, viewers will be able to discuss how a recurrent illness may warrant discussions about palliative care choices.

Summary
This segment opens with a nurse knitting with a young woman who has been diagnosed with a recurrent brain tumor. The nurse describes palliative care as not being about death, but rather about living life to the fullest and eliminating burdens.

Deborah LaFond is a nurse practitioner who has worked at Children’s National Hospital for 24 years. The majority of her patients have been diagnosed with brain tumors, nearly 50 percent of whom are not cured.

Discussion Points
Deborah speaks to the misperceptions about palliative care. She states that the word “palliative” is defined as “easing the burden” and says that burdens can come in many forms including physical, spiritual, financial, and others.

Palliative care as defined by the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium Core Curriculum (ELNEC) Guide© (revised, Feb. 2018):

“Palliative care means patient and family-centered care that optimizes quality of life by anticipating, preventing, and treating suffering. Palliative care throughout the continuum of illness involves addressing physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual needs and to facilitate patient autonomy, access to information, and choice.” (NCP, 2013; NQF, 2006)

Discussion Question 1
Reflect on the definition of palliative care. Based on this definition, how would you explain palliative care in your own words to the family of a terminally ill child?
Further Discussion/Points as Needed to Prompt Audience Interaction

Activity: Ask participants to sit in groups of three. Ask one person to role play an RN and the others to role-play family members of a terminally ill person. Ask them to take turns in the RN role and to explain to the “family” what palliative care is in a way that they can understand.

Discussion Question 2
Reflect upon a patient you cared for who chose to live life to the fullest, despite being near the end of their life. Can you share that story?

Suggested Applicability to Nursing Courses and/or to Care Settings
Courses: Palliative/Hospice Care; Nursing Roles; Home Health/Community Nursing; Mental Health Nursing; Medical/Surgical Nursing; and any course focused on communication, quality of life, and/or family systems. 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 Nursing Care; Ethical Issues in Palliative Care Nursing; Cultural/Spiritual Considerations in End-of-Life Care; Communication; Loss, Grief, Bereavement.

Related Video Segments
#11: Is It Worth It? I Don’t Know … ; #13: Quality Versus Quantity

References for Palliative Care Definition
USING THIS GUIDE

Defining Hope is a one-hour, eighteen-minute film. This guide was developed to stimulate audience reflection, conversation, and interaction. This guide highlights 14 brief video segments so that viewers may watch single segments of the film focused on particular topics.

The individual video segments can be viewed for free at www.hope.film/study-guide-videos

Nurses can receive free contact hours for watching each video segment and completing the evaluation thanks to the generous support of Walden University. Walden University is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation. For more information visit www.hope.film/study-guide-videos

Each of the 14 segments is based on the following template:
Segment #1-14, Title, Length: Each segment is numbered, titled, and followed by the approximate length of run time in minutes for that segment.

Objective/s
A minimum of one learning objective is included for each video segment.

Summary
There is a brief overview of the segment followed by a description of the patient or nurse highlighted therein.

Discussion Points
Each summary is followed by a suggested “discussion point” that the speaker/educator may use to initiate conversation or to present more insight into that segment.

Discussion Question/s
Discussion points are followed by a minimum of two discussion questions designed to encourage reflection and discussion among audience members. Questions were developed to stimulate interaction; there are no “right” or “wrong” answers.

Further Discussion/Points as Needed to Prompt Audience Interaction
Discussion questions are followed by further discussion points in the event that the audience requires more prompting or encouragement to share ideas.

Suggested Applicability to Nursing Courses and/or to Care Settings
This section provides suggested courses (nursing or other), as well as other care settings where educators may find value by embedding particular video segments into curriculum to highlight a point.

Suggested Congruence with ELNEC© Modules
This section provides suggested End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC)© modules where ELNEC© educators may find value by embedding particular segments into their curriculum. ELNEC© is a national education initiative to improve nursing education on end-of-life care. The project is administered by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and City of Hope.

Related Segments
Some segments are related to others presented elsewhere in the film. This section provides the titles of any related video segments.

References
If materials or other sources were used within a section, a reference list is provided.

OBJECTIVES
By the end of this film, viewers will be able to:
1. Discuss key factors that affect patient and family decision making about end-of-life care.
2. Differentiate between hospice and palliative care.
3. Compare and contrast the terms sympathy and empathy.
4. Discuss internal conflicts that people may encounter when making decisions about whether to pursue aggressive treatment for life threatening illnesses.
5. Describe the role of the nurse in palliative care/hospice settings.
6. Discuss how family members play a significant role in decision making surrounding care choices.
ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Guide created by Diana Mager, DNP, RN-BC, Associate Professor and Director of Continuing Education, Kanarek Center for Palliative Care for Nursing Education, Marion Peckham Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies.

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The American Nurses Foundation
The American Nurses Foundation is dedicated to transforming the nation’s health through the power of nursing. It helps nurses help people by supporting, recognizing and investing in the 4 million nurses across the United States. Learn more about the American Nurses Foundation and recognize nursing excellence at www.givetonnursing.org

The Rita & Alex Hillman Foundation
The Rita & Alex Hillman Foundation cultivates nurse leaders, supports nursing research and innovations, and disseminates new models of care—all critical to transforming our health-care system into one that is more patient-centered, accessible, equitable, and affordable; one that delivers the high-quality care patients need and deserve. Learn more about the Rita & Alex Hillman Foundation and our approach to nursing-driven innovation at www.rahf.org

OTHER RESOURCES BY CAROLYN JONES

From the creators of Defining Hope, further film and narrative resources about nurses and nurses’ care for the seriously ill can be found at:

www.DyingInAmerica.org, an interview project that examines the dying experience through the eyes of nurses.

www.AmericanNurseProject.com, a multimedia initiative to elevate the voice of nurses in this country by capturing their personal stories through photography and film. A portion of all proceeds benefit a scholarship fund for nurse education through the American Nurses Foundation.

THE FILM

The full film is available at www.hope.film. A portion of the proceeds of proceeds from this documentary support programs that advance expertise in palliative nursing practice at the American Nurses Foundation and Jonas Nursing and Veterans Healthcare.

For more information visit www.hope.film