RQ1: What is needed by nursing students to become providers of good care to families, friends, or significant others of dying patients?

RQ2: What do nursing students perceive as challenges and facilitators of providing care for families, friends, or significant others of dying patients?

Statement of the Problem

• Since nurses spend the most time with dying patients and their families.2,8
• Nurses should be competent in caring for the families as well as the dying patients.
• Research on care of the family of dying patients has been limited in scope.
• Effective nursing care can assist with peaceful deaths and support to families.1

Background

• One of the most stressful encounters nursing students face is death.4
• Many nurses do not feel prepared to care for patients and families at the end of life.3,6,7
• After death, nurses must still care for the patients’ significant others during this time of sorrow and stress.
• Many nursing schools have adopted a course or module to teach palliative and end-of-life care. The ELNEC course is prominent.
• Still, the literature shows that many nurses are not well-prepared for end-of-life care.

Gaps

• Lack of preparation for nurses in caring for end-of-life patients and families.
• Communication among caregivers and between patients and their families is vital in order to provide quality care that fits with the values and beliefs of the patient and family.
• Feeling prepared for caring for end-of-life families relates to the level of knowledge as well as the comfort level of the nurse during the end-of-life experience.

Research Questions

• RQ1: What is needed by nursing students to become providers of good care to families, friends, or significant others of dying patients?
• RQ2: What do nursing students perceive as challenges and facilitators of providing care for families, friends, or significant others of dying patients?

Method

• Qualitative, case study method
• Setting: A small, private college in the Midwest. Senior undergraduate nursing students.
• Group interviews with senior nursing
• Interviews will be taped and transcribed verbatim.
• After interviews transcribed, the information will be stored, sorted, and analyzed using a program such as Dedoose.
• Thematic analysis will be performed.

Research Team

• Kristin Haglund - Dissertation chair
• Susan Breakwell – Committee member

Bibliography