# **Guided Lecture Notes, Chapter 27, Caring for People Who Are Dying**

Learning Objective 1. Describe the physical signs that frequently signal impending death. (Refer to PowerPoint slides 2 to 8.)

### List the physical signs of impending death.

### Have learners refer to learning activities located at the end of the chapter.

Learning Objective 2. Discuss how a nursing assistant’s own feelings about death can affect the care they give to a dying patient or resident. (Refer to PowerPoint slides 9 and 10.)

### Discuss with the class the fear that most people have about death and people who are dying.

### Have the students exchange and discuss their views and feelings about death and people who are dying.

### Explain how a nursing assistant’s personal discomfort regarding death or the dying can compromise the care they give to a dying patient or resident. Emphasize that to serve dying patients or residents better, a nursing assistant must be aware of their feelings and beliefs about death and come to terms with it.

### Have learners refer to learning activities located at the end of the chapter.

Learning Objective 3. Describe ways in which the nursing assistant can provide comfort for the dying person. (Refer to PowerPoint slides 13 to 21.)

### Discuss how the knowledge of the physical signs of impending death can be used to guide the nursing assistant to provide care and comfort for the dying person.

### Discuss the role of a nursing assistant in noting the physical signs of impending death. Emphasize the importance of immediately reporting these to the nurse and recording them in the person’s medical chart, per facility policy.

### Explain that dying people have physical as well as emotional needs, just like everyone else, and that a holistic approach to care is required when caring for them.

### Explain how, as the time of death approaches, the focus of care becomes comfort. Highlight how the nursing assistant has an excellent chance to help the person feel that they are not alone during this stage.

### List the basic aspects of physical care that should be provided for a dying person.

### Discuss how, emotionally, people prepare for death individually. Give examples of the fears that dying people may have and the different ways they may express these fears.

### Describe ways in which a nursing assistant can provide emotional comfort for a dying person.

### Have learners refer to learning activities located at the end of the chapter.

Learning Objective 4. Discuss how cultural and religious influences can affect how the dying person views death. (Refer to PowerPoint slides 22 to 26.)

### Have the students discuss what they know about various beliefs and feelings regarding “what happens after death.” Note the responses on a whiteboard. Use the students’ responses to provide an insight into how cultural, religious, and spiritual beliefs can provide an explanation for what happens to a person after death and can be a source of comfort for the dying person, as well as for the person’s family members.

### Have learners refer to learning activities located at the end of the chapter.

Learning Objective 5. Describe the different ways in which family members may show grief. (Refer to PowerPoint slides 27 and 28.)

### Describe the ways in which family members may show grief. Emphasize the need to be polite to family members and not to take offensive words and actions personally.

### Have learners refer to learning activities located at the end of the chapter.

Learning Objective 6. Describe ways that a nursing assistant can help the family of a dying person. (Refer to PowerPoint slides 27 and 28.)

### List the ways in which the nursing assistant can provide comfort for the family of a dying person.

### Have learners refer to learning activities located at the end of the chapter.

Learning Objective 7. Discuss the various responsibilities that a nursing assistant may have following the death of a patient or resident. (Refer to PowerPoint slides 29 to 36.)

### Explain the terms postmortem care, rigor mortis, and autopsy.

### Discuss the responsibilities that a nursing assistant may have following the death of a patient or resident.

### List the contents of the postmortem kit. Explain the procedure of postmortem care and the emotional impact that providing postmortem care may have on the caregiver.

### Have learners refer to learning activities located at the end of the chapter.