



Association for
Palliative Medicine

Article of the Month

October 2016

How to Deal With Relatives of Patients Dying in the Hospital? Qualitative Content Analysis of Relatives' Experiences

Erica Witkamp, Mirjam Droger, Rien Janssens, Lia van Zuylen, and Agnes van der Heide. *J Pain Symptom Manage* 2016;52:235e242.

This is a secondary qualitative analysis of relatives' comments and answers to 10 open questions on the quality of dying in a general university hospital in the Netherlands. 451 questionnaires were returned and analysed from 951 sent to relatives of deceased adult patients. If bereaved relatives feel acknowledged by the trust staff in their role as caregiver, representative, and close relative, be involved in decision making and be informed in a timely fashion, then they felt they were in a better position to represent the patient.

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The bereavement experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or trans* people who have lost a partner: A systematic review, thematic synthesis and modelling of the literature

Katherine Bristowe, Steve Marshall and Richard Harding
Palliative Medicine 2016, Vol. 30(8) 730– 744

This systematic review evaluated the evidence of the bereavement experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or trans people who have lost a partner. There were 13 studies of 555 individuals. Loss of the primary relationship is a universal experience, regardless of sexual or gender identity. Additionally, experiences around the time of death were often shaped by interactions with healthcare professionals, legal and financial issues, and HIV or AIDS. Social and familial support, and if their relationship was disclosed openly also influenced bereavement

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Prepared by Elaine Boland, on behalf of the APM Science Committee