

Abstract:**Title: Coping of health care providers with the death of a patient**

RQ: With an aging population, health care professionals are often faced with the death of a patient in acute hospitals. The experience of dying patients' to health care professionals and to the health care system brings many challenges that need to be faced.

Purpose: The present study was to determine how health care providers are faced with the death of a patient, what is the care needed for the dying patient and how to participate in interdisciplinary team care of among themselves and family members of dying patients.

Method: We conducted a small-scale quantitative survey of nursing care in a Slovenian acute hospital. To analyze the results, we used frequency statistics and Pearson's correlation coefficient.

Results: Health care providers need additional skills needed to care for a dying patient as well as to the family of the dying patient. They try to control distress of the dying experience reasonably and less with conversation. The effect on the loss of a patient affects work experience, but we did not notice any other effects. The involvement of an interdisciplinary team in the care of the dying patient is satisfactory; family members are under-involved in the care.

Organization: Health organizations that are more focused on acute treatment have to become aware of palliative care that needs to be included in nursing care as an integral process of care for the terminally ill. Health care staff need to communicate more with one another and go through additional training.

Society: Attitudes to death in a broader cultural environment also affects the attitude of health workers towards death. Involvement of the social environment, especially family members, is very important.

Originality: The survey was conducted on the basis of comparing two surveys.

Limitations: The survey was conducted on a small sample size.

Keywords: health care, death and dying, coping with death, palliative care, impact of death on health care staff, interdisciplinary relationships between teams and family members.