



NPIC

National Perinatal Information Center

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Tough Talk: How to Compassionately Bombard Families Experiencing a Perinatal Loss

Melissa Petersen, RN, MS, WHNP-BC
Perinatal Bereavement Clinician
Northside Hospital Atlanta

EMPOWERED
by Data. **CONNECTED**
by Purpose.

NPIC.ORG

Purpose/Goal(s) of this Education Activity

The purpose/goal(s) of this activity is for participants to be able to self-report greater confidence when discussing attributes of bereavement care.

1.0 Contact Hour(s)

This nursing continuing professional development activity has been approved by the Northeast Multistate Division Continuing Education Unit, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

This educational activity is generously supported by an **unrestricted educational grant** from GE HealthCare.

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To successfully complete this activity and receive 1.0 Contact Hour(s) you must attend/watch the program and submit the completed post-test/evaluation to NPIC.

REMINDER: DO NOT CLOSE YOUR BROWSER WINDOW

- You will be redirected to the post-test and evaluation once the webinar has ended
- Certificates of attendance and completion will be sent to the email address provided at registration within 14 business days following post-test/evaluation submission to NPIC



Breaking Bad News

Questions to consider:

Why is this topic painful for me as the nurse??

What can I do to ease the awkwardness??

How does the patient hear what you are saying??

THINK ABOUT A
TIME WHEN YOU
LOST SOMEONE
SPECIAL TO YOU.

What was *helpful* & what was *hurtful*?

IN TRAUMA, TIME IS *frozen*.

EVERY IMAGE, EVERY DETAIL,
EVERY FACE STAYS IN A PLACE OF
YOUR HEART FOREVER.



What are some of the most painful topics we encounter when working with bereaved parents??

ALWAYS ASK THE BABY'S NAME AND
REFER TO THE BABY BY NAME.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO CONSIDER....

THIS IS A HORRIBLE EVENT. BUT IT DOESN'T
HAVE TO BE HORRIFIC. WE CAN'T TAKE AWAY
THE FACT THAT THERE HAS BEEN TRAUMA.

HOWEVER, WE DO HAVE THE POWER TO NOT
ADD TO THE TRAUMA.

TRY TO REMEMBER THAT YOUR PATIENT
MAY BE IN SHOCK. HOW CAN WE (AS
CAREGIVERS) BOMBARD THEM WITH
REALITY IN A GENTLE &
COMPASSIONATE WAY??

PAINFUL TOPICS

MAKING THE INITIAL CONNECTION



Video Source: Brene Brown

DISCUSSING WHAT TO EXPECT

Discussion points

What happens at and after delivery?

Holding & seeing the baby

Bereavement Photography

Milk suppression

How to handle being at home

Barriers:

- Parents are most likely scared.
- Trust
- Caregiver discomfort

AUTOPSY

Did you know???

- Autopsy is a quality measure, serving to advance disease understanding & provide information on cause of death.
- There are benefits to family members, especially when a family gets more insight on cause of death, future family planning is aided, or when “emotional closure” is aided.
- It is a necessary conversation to have, even though it’s uncomfortable.

SO, WHAT DO I SAY????

Introduce yourself. *“I’m so sorry for your loss. My condolences to you and your family.”*

“I’d like to talk to you about an autopsy, which can possibly have benefit to grieving families. I know this can be difficult to think about.”

“What are your thoughts when I mention autopsy? What would be helpful for you to know?”

“An autopsy is an internal & external exam performed by a pathologist, who is a medical doctor trained in this procedure. If you have detailed questions, your OB can talk with you about this.”

DISPOSITION

HOW IS YOUR PATIENT HEARING YOU??
DISPOSITION, IN ITSELF, IS A VERY HARSH WORD.

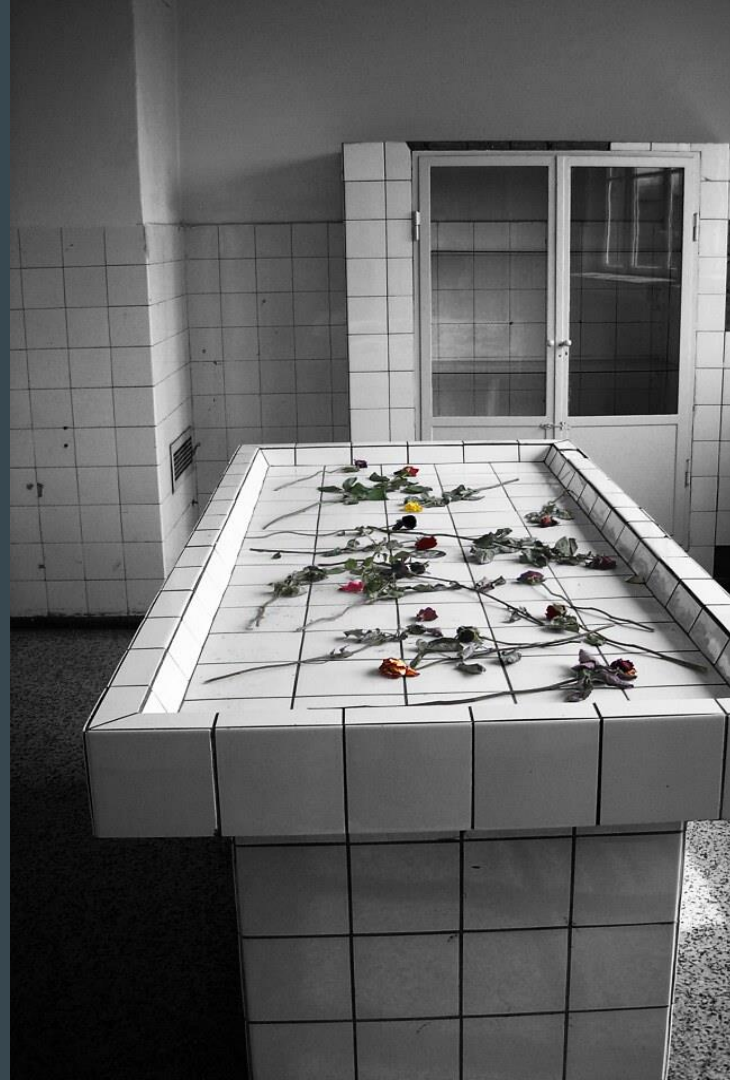
IT'S TIME THAT WE START
TALKING ABOUT HOW YOU
WOULD LIKE YOUR BABY CARED
FOR.



REFERRING TO THE MORGUE

THE WORD "MORGUE"

Literally means "a place where bodies are kept to be identified or claimed."



"COOLING ROOM"

a place of safety & privacy



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PATIENTS DON'T WANT TO
ENGAGE WITH YOU?

Timing is everything. Never forget that they are grief-stricken, possibly in shock and in the middle of a traumatic event.

“I’ll give you a few minutes and then I’ll come back.

Take the “rush” out of things. They need to feel at peace about any decisions they make.

Know when to rely on your resources....Behavioral Health, chaplains, etc.

THE RABBIT LISTENED



CORI DOERFELD

SOMETIMES, OUR SILENCE CAN BE AN
OPPORTUNITY.

BY OUR SILENCE, WE ARE ACTUALLY
TALKING.

THANK YOU!