

Process of Dying in a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit

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Abstract: The experience of the nursing staff in a pediatric intensive care unit is not enough to accept the death of a child, which generates feelings such as guilt, failure and denial of death. The aim of this study was to discuss how nursing professionals deal with the process of death and dying, and to identify the impacts caused by care during this process in pediatric intensive care units. We opted for the qualitative and exploratory-descriptive methods, using the content analysis proposed by Bardin. The study showed that for nursing professionals, the longer contact time with the pediatric patient, the follow-up of the child's development and living with the family present greater difficulty in accepting their death. The gaps in the nursing work process in dealing with death and dying in pediatrics is evident, leading them even to the denial of death process, even though death is part of the daily life of health workers, it remains misunderstood, especially in pediatrics. , in which dying is generally considered an unnatural event. Thus, it is necessary to invest in permanent education allowing the nursing professionals team to deal with the subject with less suffering, because it is still perceived today a greater focus on the curative area to the detriment of humanized care during the dying process.

Keywords: Pediatric intensive care unit. Nursing. Death.

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