

# My Patient Died: Nursing Students Perceptions After Experiencing a Patient Death

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# Demographics

- Gender
  - Women 92%
- Ethnicity
  - White 77%
  - Asian 7%
  - Hispanic 7%
  - African American 5%
  - Other 4%
- Marital Status
  - Single 69%
  - Married 30%
  - Widowed 1%
- Age
  - Millennials 70%
  - GenXrs 25%
  - Boomers 5%



# Prevalence

**As a Nursing Student:** Have you ever been present (or close by) when a patient died?

No: 59%

Yes: 41%



# After the patient death, did you receive debriefing?

- No 66%
- Yes 34%



# Did you feel prepared to communicate:

- **With the dying patient?**
  - 29% prepared or very prepared
  - 71% less than prepared



# Did you feel prepared to communicate:

- **With the family of the dying patient?**
  - 20% prepared or very prepared
  - 80% less than prepared



# Did you feel prepared to communicate:

- **With fellow healthcare team members?**
  - 56% prepared
  - 44% less than prepared





# Who, if anyone, prepared you to communicate:

- **With the dying patient?**

- 22% Learned in Nursing Class

- 19% Clinical Instructor

- 59% Someone else (including No One: 42%)



# Who, if anyone, prepared you to communicate:

- **With the family of the dying patient?**
  - 25% Nursing Class
  - 18% Clinical Instructor
  - 57% Someone else (Including No One: 37%)



# Who, if anyone, prepared you to communicate:

- **With fellow health care team members?**
  - 22% Nursing Class
  - 22% Clinical Instructor
  - 56% Someone else (Including No One: 32%)



# Did you feel prepared in the following areas at the time of the patient death?

- **Process of death and dying**

- 55% prepared

- 45% less than prepared

- **End-of-Life Care**

- 44% prepared

- 56% less than prepared

- **Ways to cope with a patient death**

- 44% prepared

- 56% less than prepared



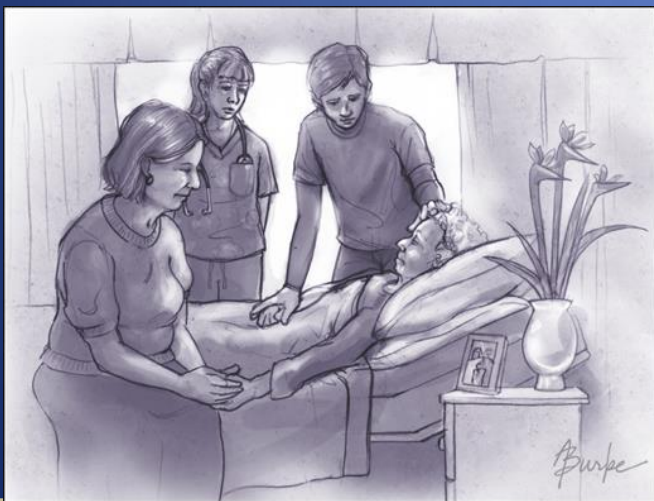
# Who, if anyone, prepared you in the:

- **Process of Death and Dying**

- 36% Nursing Class
- 21% Clinical Instructor
- 43% Someone else (Including No One 15%)

- **End-of-Life Care**

- 30% Nursing Class
- 24% Clinical Instructor
- 46% Someone else (Including No One 15%)



# Who, if anyone prepared you in:

- **Ways to Cope**
  - 21% Nursing Class
  - 22% Clinical Instructor
  - 57% Someone else  
(Including No One 28%)



# Conclusion

- Nursing students are not routinely debriefed after experiencing a patient death
- Students feel unprepared to communicate with dying patients and their families
- Students feel that they need more education on End-of-Life care



# Conclusion

- Students feel that they need more education on interprofessional communication
- Nurse Educators, particularly clinical instructors, need to include debriefing strategies when working with nursing students who have experienced a patient death





# Implications for Nursing Education

- How well are we preparing future nurses for End-of-Life care?
- As Nurse Educators, what improvements do we need to make?
- What education do we need to provide for our clinical faculty?



# Debriefing

- Are we competent (or comfortable) with debriefing our students after a patient death?



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# Questions?

