



# EOL in Critical Care



**Aim:** To provide guidance on nursing care for End-of-life patients in Critical Care

**Scope:** All adult patients in Critical Care

## Identification and Agreement that a person is dying

- Multi-disciplinary team assessment of the patient, including opinions from consultant experienced in patients' disease.
- Reversible causes excluded
- Communication with the patient (if able to participate) or Next or Kin to identify patient's wishes : Does the patient have an Advanced Care Plan (ACP) and/or Advanced Decision to Refuse Treatment ADRT?
- Is a DNACPR required?
- Plan for End-of-Life care documented.

### STANDARD End-of-life CARE

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Review of medications and treatments: Can they be stopped?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inotropic/vasopressor drugs</li> <li>• Renal replacement therapy</li> <li>• Mechanical ventilation: Extubation / withdrawal / reduced support / alarms</li> <li>• Deactivation of implantable cardiac defibrillator</li> <li>• Blood products/ anti-coagulants</li> <li>• Antibiotics</li> <li>• Observation frequency / monitoring / alarms</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Symptom management and fundamental care considerations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain, nausea, agitation, sedation, secretions, nutrition, hydration, feeding tubes, invasive lines</li> <li>• Eye, mouth, pressure area, bowel, bladder care, suctioning</li> <li>• Religious/spiritual needs</li> <li>• Medications to manage symptoms prescribed, PRN/continuous infusion</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>MDT involvement during end-of-life</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialist Organ Donation nurse</li> <li>• Palliative care team</li> <li>• Pharmacist</li> <li>• Pastoral</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Care after death</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memory making- handprints/hair cuttings</li> <li>• Bereavement care</li> <li>• Review care delivered</li> </ul>

Adapted from Care at End of Life: A guide to best practice, discussion and decision-making in and around critical care. FICM Sept 2019.

**Please see your units full guidelines for more information**

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