**End-of-Life Care Transitions and Palliative Care**

**Unit outcomes addressed in this Assignment:**

* Identify best practice in strategies facilitating autonomy and patient self -determination in the aging population.
* Examine ethical and legal challenges related to end of life and palliative care in the aging population.
* Examine the advanced practice nurse role working in primary care in transitions across health care settings of aging patients.

**Course outcome addressed in this Assignment:**

**MN584-05:** Form a collaborative relationship with the patient, family, and other health care providers.

**Instructions:**

**Case Study: Mrs. Georgia D’Angelo**

Mrs. Georgia D’Angela is 76 years old. She has been married to her husband Marcus for 58 years. Marcus is 80 years old. The D’Angelo’s live in a well-kept, middle class home. The D’Angelo’s have three grown children: two sons and one daughter. All of the children are married and only their daughter lives close to them. The two sons each live more than 3 and a half hours away. The D’Angelo’s are very close to their children and talk with the children every day. Four months ago, Mrs. D’Angelo noticed her skin was “yellowish” in color and upon calling her primary care provider, she was told to go immediately to the emergency room for evaluation. After having a CT scan of the abdomen and laboratory studies, Mrs. D’Angelo was told she had pancreatic cancer and that she should immediately have a Whipple Procedure. This news was devastating to the D’Angelo’s and their family and friends. Mrs. D’Angelo called a friend who is a nurse and asked who she might go to for a second opinion. A second opinion was obtained and the second opinion reaffirmed the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer however the recommendation was to have chemotherapy prior to the Whipple Procedure. Mrs. D’Angelo began the chemotherapy and has suffered severe issues secondary to the chemotherapy and her quality of life is greatly impacted with a huge decrease in her functional status and activities of daily living. As of today, Mrs. D’Angelo has not discussed her fear of dying with you as the primary care provider or with her family. She has an excellent attitude about “fighting this horrible disease.”

Based on this case study, imagine you are the nurse practitioner providing primary care for Mrs. D’Angelo. Please prepare a 10–12 slide PowerPoint presentation. The title slide and reference slides are not included in the slide count. You should have 5 peer-reviewed scholarly references no more than 5 years old to support this Assignment. Please address each of the following grading criterion. Include the Grading Criterion as a subheading in your paper in APA 6th edition format.

1. Discuss the advanced practice nurse role facilitating end-of-life care and advance directives for Mrs. D’Angelo.
2. Compare and contrast the types of advance directives and discuss the relevance of advance directives to this case study.
3. Describe how you would approach the topic/issue of advance directives with Mrs. D’Angelo.
4. Identify 2 ethical principles and 2 legal challenges related to end of life and palliative care for Mrs. D’Angelo that could be an issue if advance directives are not addressed at this time.
5. Describe communication strategies you will use as the nurse practitioner to effectively engage and collaborate with other members of the intra professional healthcare team and Mrs. D’Angelo’s family

Assignment Introduction The nurse practitioner is in a front line role caring for patients like Mrs. D’Angelo every day. Nurse practitioners must be very comfortable speaking with patients and their families at some of life’s most intimate and fragile moments. At this time, Mrs. D’Angelo is no doubt scared to death about impending death and her family is terrified about losing her. The nurse practitioner has the knowledge, skills, and competency to assess the depth and meaning of this diagnosis as well as symptom management for Mrs. D’Angelo. Once the nurse practitioner assesses where Mrs. D’Angelo and her family are with the current effect of this diagnosis and her present symptoms the nurse practitioner can begin to help Mrs. D’Angelo and her family each with the physical, emotional, developmental, spiritual aspects as well as pain and physical/emotional distress.

1. The experience of a horrific diagnosis like pancreatic cancer is a blow and a shock to a patient and their family. One of the greatest challenges is to assess what the patient and family are experiencing in order to guide and assist the patient in decision making about advance directives and palliative care. Specifically the Nurse practitioner must focus on the four ethical principles of beneficence, non-maleficence, justice, and autonomy pertaining to Mrs. D’Angelo’s situation. The nurse practitioner must be able to determine patient preferences with regard to Mrs. D’Angelo’s wishes for if she becomes “sicker” and she can no longer maker her wishes known to her family and/or her healthcare providers. To elicit this critical information regarding Mrs. D’Angelo’s wishes and honor the ethical principle of patient autonomy, the nurse practitioner could ask the following 4 questions:

● What would you want to happen if you are to become sicker or have symptoms that worsen? ● Would you want to go back to the hospital? ● Do you want to be on life support which is a breathing tube placed in your airway and then you are placed on a mechanical ventilator which helps you breath automatically? ● If something happens and your condition worsens to the point you most likely will not get better, would you want to be cared for at home?

Patient preferences must be conveyed in a compassionate and caring manner by the nurse practitioner to the family and to other healthcare providers. If the patient does not have an advance directive, the nurse practitioner must educate the patient about the need to have an advance directive in place and how to create one. It is particularly relevant to educate the patient and family about how the advance directive honors patient autonomy and provides guidance to health care providers and family members regarding life - sustaining treatment regarding how to proceed with life sustaining treatment when the patient can no longer speak in his or her behalf as a result of diminished capacity.

One major challenge patients and healthcare providers face in healthcare at any time is when something happens to impact or delimit the patient’s decision-making capacity. The end result can be extreme confusion regarding how healthcare decisions are to be

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made, who has authority to make decisions on behalf of the patient when the patient cannot make decisions on their own behalf, who has authority to make decisions on the patient’s behalf, and what the treatment or focus should be to honor the patient’s autonomous wishes. Discussing an advance directive with a patient and their significant other, can be extremely challenging but necessary. Knowing what Mrs. D’Angelo wants and prefers if her condition deteriorates and she cannot make decisions on her own behalf is critical to assist her in developing an advance directive. There are not only ethical issues when nurse practitioners fail to discuss advance directives and palliative care with patients like Mrs. D’Angelo but legal issues as well. Nurse Practitioners are expected to be proactive facilitators of advance directives and palliative care for frail elderly patients.

**Assignment Requirements:**

Before finalizing your work, you should:

* be sure to **read the Assignment description carefully** (as displayed above);
* **consult the Grading Rubric** (under the Course Resources) to make sure you have included everything necessary; and
* utilize **spelling** and **grammar check** to minimize errors.
* Your writing Assignment should:
* follow the conventions of **Standard English** (correct grammar, punctuation, etc.);
* be **well ordered**, **logical,** and **unified**, as well as **original and insightful**;
* display **superior content, organization, style,** and **mechanics**; and
* use **APA 6th Edition** format.