

The importance of the existence of a palliative care commission in the care of terminally ill patients

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Opinion

Palliative care seeks to ensure the dignity and well-being of a terminally ill patient. It is important to assure the patient and his / her family members of certainty, safety and, above all, a well-defined care plan capable of ensuring the goal of a dignified death. Although the importance of palliative care is incontestable, there is a shortage in the formation of committees specialized in the care of these patients. In some hospitals it is possible to verify that the care of these patients is restricted to the color change of documentation or a code in the system. In these cases, the treatment ends up being conducted in the same way as the other patients. With this, it can happen that patients with the option of palliative care have their rights disrespected and mistaken measures are taken for lack of communication, lack of a plan dedicated exclusively to these patients. Establishing specialized palliative care committees in hospitals is a very important step in maintaining the dignity of terminally ill patients. Professionals specializing in palliative care can guarantee an individual treatment plan for each patient whenever he / she needs this care.

It is not enough to identify the patient in palliative care. It takes much more than that. Individualized guidelines are required that must be submitted to a specialized committee that can identify the particularities of the case and, thus, you can provide the best guidelines. This commission, besides being responsible for the

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analysis and preparation of the action plans, are responsible for dealing with the family, guaranteeing the full understanding of the situation experienced by the patient. There are several courses around the world that make up palliative care specialists. Therefore, it is important that these cases be directed to technically prepared professionals capable of guaranteeing the primary objective of palliative care: the human dignity.

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Conflict of interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.