

Orientation Guide

<p>Project Description/ Background:</p>	<p>Social Work Response at End of Life</p> <p>A shared work team is currently updating a Decision Support Tool (DST) about how Social Workers should respond to end of life situations. This includes supporting the person who is dying (where possible) as well as assisting their family/support network before and/or after death.</p> <p>Healthcare Social Workers respond to end of life situations across a variety of practice settings (Emergency, Critical Care, Medical, Surgical, Palliative, Renal, Long Term Care, Mental Health, and Community). Although some are associated with the palliative program where staff have a lot of experience with death and dying, many deaths occur without linkage to palliative teams – particularly sudden and unexpected deaths due to cardiac events, trauma, suicide or toxic drug supply.</p> <p>This Decision Support Tool will guide Social Workers across Fraser Health about how to respond when a death occurs, in keeping with current legislation and best practices. There are also associated patient/family education materials which require updating, including Managing Grief and Loss: When Someone Dies, Suggested Books on Bereavement, Grief Counselling and Support Services, Supporting a Loved One When Death is Near, and a list of funeral service providers.</p> <p>The project team would like to work with patient partners to verify that the Social Work approach outlined in the DST is sensitive to the experience of people who have recently lost a loved one and that recommended actions are responsive to their needs. This includes that any materials provided at the time of death are useful. The team is requesting -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feedback on Decision Support Tool once completed • input into the redevelopment of the patient/family education materials (i.e., handouts that could be provided to family or friends when someone is dying or has died)
<p>Level of Engagement</p>	<p>Level of Engagement</p> <p>DST - Consult: To ask for patient and family feedback. The team will listen, keep those who participate informed, and provide feedback on the impact of their participation.</p> <p>Patient/Family Education Materials - Involve: To work with patient partners and have them be a part of the decision for specific parts of the project. The team will work with patient partners by keeping them</p>

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	informed, identifying the scope of the decisions, and demonstrating the impact of the partnership.
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advance patient and family centered approach to care• Improve the patient experience• Improve quality and patient safety• Strengthen program operations
Team Introduction	Shannon Torhjem, Clinical Practice Consultant Allied Health (Social Work)
Resources to Review:	Managing Grief and Loss: When Someone Dies , Suggested Books on Bereavement , Grief Counselling and Support Services , Supporting a Loved One When Death is Near
Logistics:	Meet with the team virtually via MS Teams (dates and times are flexible, typically within Mon-Fri 800-430) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To learn more about MS Teams: Learn how to join a Teams meeting
Key Contact:	Shannon Torhjem shannon.torhjem@fraserhealth.ca
Closing the Loop:	Forward final copy of all documents, including a summary of the patient advisors recommendations/insight.