

GRIEV_ING® Protocol for Death Notification

Gather

Ensure that important survivors are present prior to delivery of death notification.

Resources

Inquire about supportive resources (additional family members, social work, charge nurse, pastoral care, chaplain).

Identify

Identify patient by name.

Introduce yourself by name and state your role.

Determine level of knowledge of survivors prior to arrival in ED.

Fire warning shot.

Educate

In plain language, educate survivors to the chronology of events and cause of death.

Provide summary of important information to ensure understanding.

Verify

Verify the patient's death. Use the phrase "dead" or "died".

_Space

Pause and allow family to assimilate information.

Inquire

Check for understanding and answer all questions.

Correct any misinformation.

Nuts and Bolts

Address any issues of post-mortem care (organ donation, need for autopsy, funeral arrangements, personal effects, etc.).

Give

Give your contact information and establish your availability to answer questions.