Death and Dying in Adult Critical Care Areas: Creating meaningful experiences for grieving family members

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I, Wendy Sherry, do not declare any potential conflict of interest
Two Standards for End of Life Care
Presentation Objectives

To promote reflection on the standard of end of life care in adult critical care areas

- Review of literature and research gap
- Belief and Illness Model (Wright & Bell, 2009)
- The Organ & Tissue Donation (OTD) service program
“A specific behaviour or activity which gives symbolic expression to certain feelings and thoughts of the actor(s) individually or as a group. It may be a habitually repetitive behaviour or a one-time occurrence.”

Rando (1985), p. 236
Results of Literature Review

- **Number of adult ICU deaths**
  (Angus, et al., 2004; Shanawani, Wenrich, Tonelli, & Curtis, 2008)

- **Palliative Care**
  (Buxbaum & Brant, 2001; Dennis, 2008; Castle & Phillips, 2003; O’Callaghan, 2008; Rutenberg, 2008)

- **Pediatric / Perinatal**
  (Kobler, Limbo, & Kavanaugh, 2007; McCartney, 2007)

- **Adult Critical Care**
  (Jenko, Gonzalez, & Alley, 2010; Truog et al., 2001)
Belief & Illness Model (Wright & Bell, 2009)
Grief

- Grief is a universal human experience
- Grief beliefs affect emotions, behaviors, and relationships
- Grief is a normal reaction to an event of loss
- Grief is an incorporation of a loss to allow a person to move forward and to construct an ongoing connection with the deceased
Beliefs about Grief

- Staying connected
- Time-limited and sequential nature of grief
- Events connected to the loss
- Identity

“To enter the world of one who is grieving, we must choose to listen to the pain behind the words”

(Gibbons, 1993)
God Only Takes The Best

you were one
a chosen one
a special one
the best

God took you away
20 years too soon
all because
one little thing
that god,
only takes the best

you were the best
you were the one
a special one
we love you

you will never
be forgotten
God only takes
the best.
Ton souvenir, c'est ta présence dans l'absence...

what is essential is invisible to the eyes...
The work of healing in grief is

“A character connection to the living and the dead, a lifelong work that is borne by the bereaved who carry the inherent capacity to heal through love, and clinicians willing and skilled to join in behind”

(Moules, Simonson, Fleiszer, Prins, & Glasgow, 2007, p. 139)
Thank You


