

The purpose of this continuing education series is to increase the pediatric nurse's understanding about two issues related to palliative and end-of-life care.

Perhaps one of the most stressful and yet rewarding roles for pediatric nurses is providing palliative and end-of-life care. The nurse is a crucial member of the team that seeks to make the child's death as peaceful and respectful as possible. Exploring a sampling of end of life issues can help prepare pediatric nurses to provide appropriate care while also being aware of the need for self-care.

This continuing education series consists of two articles. The first article describes the benefits and process of wish fulfillment for children with life-threatening illnesses. The second article reviews the history and current status of pediatric palliative care and describes the experiences of nurses caring for children who are dying and the impact of these experiences on the nurse

### ASSIGNMENT

Ewing, B. (2009). Wish fulfillment: Palliative care and end-of-life intervention. *Pediatric Nursing*, 35(2), 81-85.

Morgan, D. (2009). Caring for dying children: Assessing the needs of the pediatric palliative care nurse. *Pediatric Nursing*, 35(2), 86-90.

## Earn 1.3 Contact Hours

### OBJECTIVES

1. Discuss the importance of appropriate nursing care for children with life-threatening conditions.
2. Describe the benefits of wish fulfillment for children in palliative care.
3. List three possible interventions the advanced practice nurse might implement to influence more positive patient care and increase nursing staff job satisfaction.
4. Identify opportunities for pediatric nurses to keep current on palliative and end-of-life issues.

This offering for 1.3 contact hours is provided by Anthony J. Jannetti, Inc.

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Articles accepted for publication in the continuing education series are refereed manuscripts that are reviewed in the standard *Pediatric Nursing* review process with other articles appearing in the journal.

This test was reviewed and edited by Judy A. Rollins, PhD, RN, *Pediatric Nursing* associate editor, and Veronica D. Feeg, PhD, RN, FAAN, *Pediatric Nursing* editor.

### QUESTIONS

1. **Wish Fulfillment for children with a life-threatening illness is an**
  - a. intervention that is reserved for selective children who are healthy enough to have a wish fulfilled.
  - b. alternate therapy that can be offered to children as an end of life intervention that focuses on preparing for anticipated death.
  - c. experience that holds a promise of fun for the child.
  - d. intervention that requires the child to consider the wishes of the family.
2. **The fulfillment of a child's wish has an ontological meaning of balance that**
  - a. is a means to attain a sense of peacefulness in mind/body and spirit.
  - b. offers a way for the child escape from illness.
  - c. brings about a cure physically, psychologically, and spiritually.
  - d. helps the child to suppress difficult and complex emotions.
3. **Siblings need to be encouraged to be involved in the experience of wish fulfillment because**
  - a. siblings are entitled to the same experience as the child who has a special wish granted.
  - b. the child whose wish is granted will feel guilty without the sibling.
  - c. parents need to have the family together as a whole.
  - d. siblings who are involved in the care of the dying child are able to accept the death of the child more peacefully.
4. **Talking about the wish experience with the child and family**
  - a. provides a way for the family to come together to discuss the joy and pleasure of the wish.
  - b. creates an opportunity for communication about the child's interests, fears, and anxieties.
  - c. should be avoided since the emotions are painful.
  - d. should be carried out only with a psychologist present.
5. **Drawings of the child's fulfilled wish**
  - a. are a way to gain insight into the child's reality.
  - b. are limited in information about the child's experience.
  - c. do not provide a way to understand the child's emotions.
  - d. need to be explained by the child to gain knowledge about the experience.
6. **According to Romesburg (2007), what percentage of hospice programs in the United States provide end-of-life services to dying children and neonates?**
  - a. 40%
  - b. 15%
  - c. 50%
  - d. 10%
  - e. 25%
7. **What has been determined to be the leading disease-related cause of death of children and adolescents in the United States?**
  - a. Trauma
  - b. Cancer
  - c. Heart Disease
  - d. Chromosomal Abnormalities
  - e. Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

8. A unique characteristic of pediatric palliative care is the need to tailor all care around the developmental level of the child.
- True
  - False

9. A survey by Contro (2004) reported that staff were
- Too busy with other tasks to be emotionally capable of dealing with the dying process.
  - Inexperienced in communicating with patients and families about end-of-life issues and in transition children to palliative care.
  - Lacked education in pain management techniques.
  - a and c
  - b and c

10. Which of the following is NOT a function of the Advanced Practice Nurse in a pediatric palliative care program?
- Providing evidence-based research and education to staff members.
  - Coordinating patient care conferences with all disciplines of care and the families.
  - Providing strict protocols to be implemented for all patients and families.
  - Mentoring novice nurses.

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Answer Form: Palliative and End-of-Life Care

\*PED J0902

Check the box next to the correct answer.

- |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                                |
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| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> A | 2. <input type="checkbox"/> A | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> A | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> A | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> A | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> A | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> A | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> A | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> A | 10. <input type="checkbox"/> A |
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Evaluation	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly agree
1. The objectives relate to the overall purpose/goals of the education activity.	1	2	3	4	5		
2. The activity met the stated objectives.							
a. Discuss the importance of appropriate nursing care for children with life-threatening conditions.	1	2	3	4	5		
b. Describe the benefits of wish fulfillment for children in palliative care.	1	2	3	4	5		
c. List three possible interventions the advanced practice nurse might implement to influence more positive patient care and increase nursing staff job satisfaction.	1	2	3	4	5		
d. Identify opportunities for pediatric nurses to keep current on palliative and end-of-life issues.	1	2	3	4	5		
3. Home study format was appropriate.	1	2	3	4	5		
4. The content was relevant to my practice.	1	2	3	4	5		
5. The content met my needs.	1	2	3	4	5		
6. How much time was used to complete reading assignment and posttest:							
a. Less than 1 hour _____							
b. 1-2 hours _____							
c. 2-3 hours _____							
d. 3 hours or more _____							

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**POSTTEST INSTRUCTIONS**

- Select the best answer and check the corresponding box on the answer form. Retain the test questions as your record.
- Complete the information requested in the space provided.
- Detach the answer form or a copy of the answer form and mail to: *Pediatric Nursing*, CNE Series, Jannetti Publications Inc.; East Holly Avenue Box 56; Pitman, NJ 08071-0056 with a check or money order payable to Jannetti Publications Inc. for \$10.00 (subscriber) or \$15.00 (nonsubscriber).
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