

The Last Offices

Presenter Name

Time and date

Location

Today

01 Definition

02 The nurses role

03 Taking care of the deceased

04 Questions

The Last Offices

The term last offices relates to the care given to a body after death. It is a process that demonstrates respect for the deceased and is focused on respecting their religious and cultural beliefs, as well as health and safety and legal requirements (Dougherty and Lister, 2004)

The Last Offices

When someone passes away in our care our job as Nurse is not done

Part of ending our care with an individual is to complete the last offices.

What is the FIRST thing you must do when a patient passes away?

- Inform medics to verify the death
- Inform NoK and relatives if they were not present

Other important factors to consider

Is there an infection and contamination risk? Some illnesses require barrier nursing after death to ensure no spread of infection.

If the patient is not in a private room- how might we ensure dignity is kept?

Do the family wish to view the body/spend time with loved ones before they go to the mortuary or funeral home? This will affect whether you shroud the patient or leave them uncovered.

Taking care of the deceased



Activity

Your Patient today has passed....

Read through the Portsmouth Policy for care of the deceased patient and your notes from the video and complete the last offices.



PRODUCED BY



Havant and South Downs College
has produced this resource on
behalf of the Education and
Training Foundation

FUNDED BY



This programme is funded by
the Department for Education

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