

Continuing care after death

Leon feels lost. He has always been the 'strong and silent type', a hard worker who has looked after his family. Irene has gone and he doesn't know what to do. He knows there is lots to do, contact the funeral directors, ring around family, clear out Irene's room at the care home, make sure his sons are coping, but he just feels numb and is struggling to collect his thoughts. They weren't the sort of family to talk about things like death and dying but he now wishes they had.

Karen is an experienced Care worker. She finds end of life care rewarding and is keen to make sure that both Irene and Leon are fully supported in Irene's final hours. She can also support Michelle, who is less experienced in end of life care.

Continuing care after death

1. Irene has passed away

Option 1



Karen, a Care worker, has sat with Leon as Irene passed away. As well as making sure Irene was kept comfortable she has ensured that Leon has also been cared for by making sure he has had food, drinks and regular rests. Karen hugs Leon and tells him that they will take care of things, he should go home and get some rest if he can.
Continuing reading

Learning point 1

Option 2



Leon was alone with Irene when she passed, as he had requested. Karen and Michelle had popped in and out to check on them both, but had not stayed in the room for long. Karen found Leon sat holding Irene's hand after she had passed and gently squeezed his shoulder to offer him some comfort, she asks " would you like to spend some more time
Continuing reading

Learning point 2

Option 3



Michelle has been very busy and is called by Leon as she is walking past Irene's room. As she goes in the room she notices that Irene has passed away, she feels a bit panicky and her eyes well up. She is unsure what she should do. Michelle goes to find Karen. Michelle tells Karen that she doesn't know what to do and asks if "Do we need to ring the
Continuing reading

Learning point 3

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Learning point 1

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1. Karen's approach to supporting Leon appears supportive but is she being too directive/coercive?
2. Karen recognises Leon's physical and emotional needs at the time of death rather than focusing only on Irene.
3. Karen's good knowledge of Irene's preferences and wishes facilitates person-centred care even when the patient has died

Option 2



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Learning point 2

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1. Leon's physical and emotional needs may have been overlooked
2. Staff must to respect Leon's wish to be alone with his wife at this time