

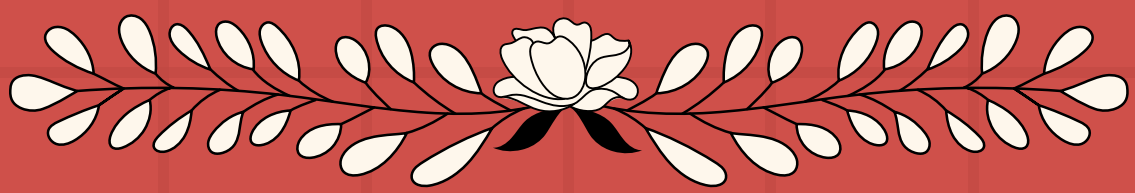
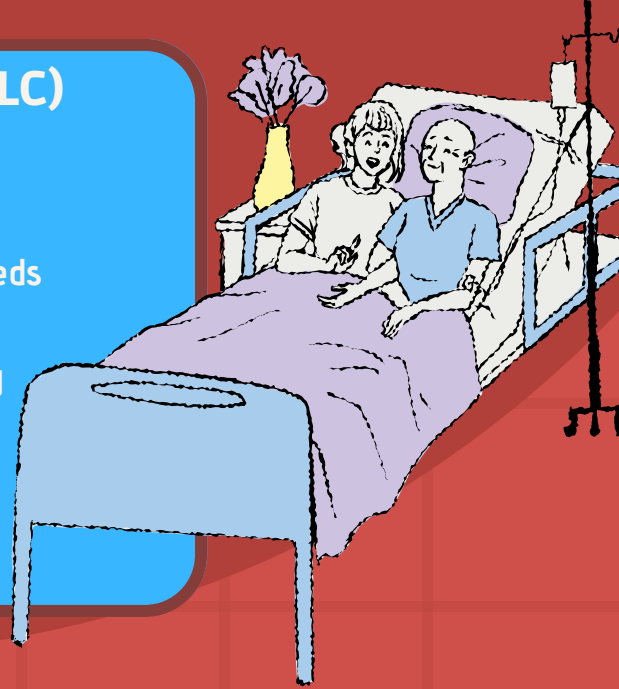
PARENT–CHILD COMMUNICATION BEFORE AND AFTER THE DEATH OF A PARENT

Before a Parent's Death

Why is End of Life Communication (EoLC) Important?

- EoLC is a **necessity** for both the child and the dying parent
 - The dying parent is then able to communicate their needs to their children and caregivers
 - Can influence a child's development and early learning
- The child and parent protected each other from the bad experiences of death and dying
- Family dynamic helped with EoLC

(Lake and Scheinfeld, 2021)



After a Parent's Death

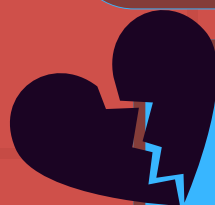
Strive for Open Communication Within the Family

- Increases prosocial behavior (Weber et al., 2021)
- Protective factor between parents and children
 - Leads families to be closer
 - Increases psychological health in children and surviving parent (Weber et al., 2019)
- Increases self-esteem in family members (Angelhoff et al., 2021)



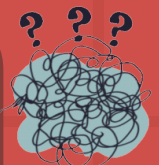
Surviving Parent's Health is Just as Important as the Child's

- Why is it Overwhelming?
 - Dealing with communicating with their children as well as their own grief
 - Essential to communicate to older children that their help is needed (Weber et al., 2019)
- Depression and prolonged grief in the surviving parent will lead to lower self-esteem in the children (Angelhoff et al., 2021)



What is Prolonged Grief?

- In depth type of grief
 - Results in suicidal thoughts and health issues
 - Present within the children and surviving parent (Weber et al., 2021)
- How to decrease it?
 - Expression of emotions through self and others
 - Open/engaging communication between surviving parent and children (Angelhoff et al., 2021)



Citations

Angelhoff, C., Sveen, J., Alvariza, A., Weber-Falk, M., & Kreicbergs, U. (2021). Communication, self-esteem and prolonged grief in parent-adolescent dyads, 1–4 years following the death of a parent to cancer. *European Journal of Oncology Nursing*, 50. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejon.2020.101883>

Scheinfeld, E., & Lake, P. K. (2021). Why Is It Just So Hard? Making Sense of End-of-Life Communication Between Adult Children and Their Terminally Ill Parental Figures. *Omega: Journal of Death & Dying*, 83(3), 611–629. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0030222819859163>

Weber, M., Alvariza, A., Kreicbergs, U., & Sveen, J. (2021). Family Communication and Psychological Health in Children and Adolescents Following a Parent's Death From Cancer. *Omega: Journal of Death & Dying*, 83(3), 630–648. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0030222819859965>

Weber, M., Alvariza, A., Kreicbergs, U., & Sveen, J. (2019). Communication in families with minor children following the loss of a parent to cancer. *European Journal of Oncology Nursing*, 39, 41–46. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejon.2019.01.005>