

PDQ Assignment #1

Dignity in Care

Initials: SY

DOB: 1985

S is a 38-year-old male diagnosed with what he describes as “incurable liver cancer’. He is married with three children (ages 12, 8, and 1). He stated that the past 18 months have been ‘tough’ as his diagnosis was made while his wife was pregnant with their youngest child.

The diagnosis was made after multiple trips to the emergency department which left S wondering if the cancer had been diagnosed sooner might he have been cured. He has been told his life expectancy is less than one year, has no further treatment options and has been referred for supportive care.

S was worried about what his wife will do when he is gone. He describes his wife and kids as the “foundation of his life’. S states that his sister, who lives in BC and visits when she can, has also been a support.

When asked what else S wished to share, S said that he loves spending time building forts with his kids when he is not in too much pain. Also, while he was never very good at hockey, he loves to watch it.

At the end of our brief interaction, I thanked S for sharing the information about himself as it would help me provide more personal care for himself and his family. (I presented as the nurse providing care that day on a clinic visit)

Reflection on PDQ Interaction

Unfortunately, having recently purchased a new computer, I was not aware that both my speaker and camera were not functioning. Unable to get things fixed in short order, my partner and I decided to try the role play using the chat box feature. Given the time limitation, I began but did not get too far before time was up. My partner said he would interview someone at work to complete the assignment.

As a result of the failed technology link, I felt a bit flustered to even start. I have been out of clinical practice for 5 years so again, so it felt a bit awkward. However, it did not feel uncomfortable asking the PDQ as it is not far off the person-centred question used in practice, ie “what is the most important thing for you today on this clinic visit”?

Because I was typing questions and responses as quickly and correctly as possible, I don’t feel I gave the interaction my full attention and wondered how my client felt.