



M Shears, M Swinton, F Clarke, F Toledo, A Woods, A Boyle, N Hoad, T French, T Rose, T Hand-Breckenridge, R Sheppard, M Giacomini, M Vanstone, D Cook



Background

- We developed the 3 Wishes Demonstration Project to elicit and implement a set of 3 wishes for patients and their family members in the Intensive Care Unit, to bring peace to the final days of a critically ill patient's life, and ease the grieving process

Objective

- To identify potential difficulties with, and solutions for, implementing the 3 Wishes Project, from the perspectives of clinicians and families

Methods

- We used conventional content analysis to analyze 208 interviews with 58 family members and 150 clinicians
- Interviewers asked for potential challenges to expand the project and suggestions for improvement to ensure its success

Results

Potential Challenges

- Patient/Family:**
Receptivity of the family to the project, feasibility of the wishes
- Staff:**
Variable communication skills & interest in active project execution
- System:**
Insufficient number of staff, staff training, risk of inauthentic delivery

“So, I think at the time when... we found out, it was okay for us.... It is going to be a timing issue. You have to know... when is it a good time to bring it up.” [Family]

“I think a program like this needs passionate and invested champions.” [Fellow]

Results (continued)

Implementation Suggestions

- Formalizing & framing the 3W program
- Staff engagement
- Project champions
- Formal reflection & debriefing opportunities
- Implementation tools
- Documentation

“The best thing that can be done would be education... just awareness and support for the clinicians and examples would be very beneficial.” [Resident]

“[It would be helpful] if we can all share together our experience of what it was like to be a part of [3W]... to hear their own impressions, their own reflections and experiences.” [Chaplain]

Conclusions

- Insights from participating clinicians and families are integral to effectively and sensitively implement 3 Wishes, and will be leveraged for future project expansion

Acknowledgements

We would like to express our gratitude to the family members and clinicians who participated in this project. Funding: Canadian Intensive Care Foundation (Hamilton Chapter), Hamilton Academic Health Sciences Organization, Canadian Tire Association (Hamilton Branch), Covenant Health and generous donations of families, physicians and members of the 3 Wishes Team. D Cook holds a Research Chair of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

