



Continuing Connections with Bereaved Family Members: Post-Mortem Experiences From the 3 Wishes Project

Melissa Shears, HBSc, MD Candidate 2019

mshears@qmed.ca



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The 3 Wishes Project

Bringing a set of 3 wishes to fulfillment in the hope of bringing peace to the final days or hours of a patient's life

3 Specific Objectives

- **For patients**, to dignify their death and celebrate their life
- **For family members**, to humanize the dying process and create positive memories
- **For ICU clinicians**, to foster patient and family-centered care and inspire a deeper sense of our vocation

Post-Mortem Experiences

Objectives: To describe the elements and impact of the postmortem components of the 3WP after 100 patients

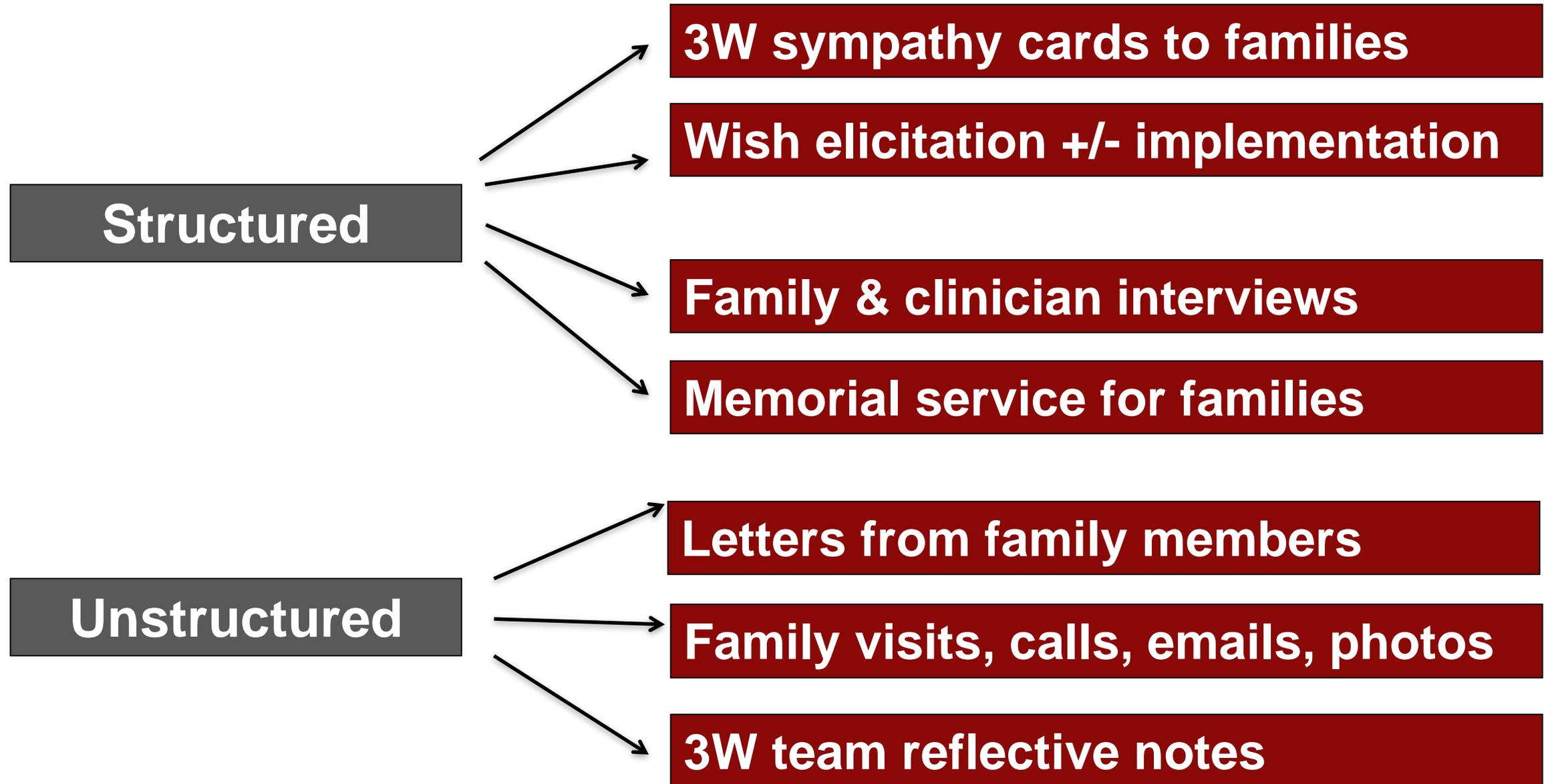
Methods:

- Interviews of 86 family members, 50 clinicians (100% participation)
- Family interviews
 - in-person (n=53, 61.6%)
 - phone (n=31, 36.0%)
 - email (n=2, 2.3%)
- Analyzed using conventional content analysis

The Wishes: 1/3 Post Mortem

Humanizing the Environment	Tributes	Connections	Rituals	Paying it Forward
Movie night	Final toast	Finding a lost relative	Firework display	Hospital volunteer position
Using a patient's nickname	Word Cloud	Skype reunion	Renewal of wedding vows	Family donations to 3W
Personal keepsakes in the room	Tea party	Pet visitation	Smudge ceremony	Contribution to charity of importance
Favourite flowers	Birthday cake	Hosting final supper	Wedding	Organ donation

Results: Connections



Results

- The 3 Wishes Project facilitated family re-engagement with ICU, hospital and project staff, through *structured* components of the project, and also through *unstructured* postmortem communications and visits
- Connections have been *scheduled* or *spontaneous*
- While some family members found it difficult being back in the hospital, all described the return as a meaningful experience during their grieving process

Conclusions

- **Continued connections** with family members of deceased patients enrolled in the 3 Wishes Project appear to be valued
 - Whether formal or informal
 - With or without therapeutic intent
 - Supported by clinicians & the community
 - Welcomed by family members in grief