

REVIEW PAPER**Speaking about Death and Dying to Parents' of Pediatric Patients who are Terminally Ill****Veronica Braganza, BScN**

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Correspondence: Veronica Braganza, 5C-21 Calle Gonzalez Besada, Oviedo 33007, Asturias, Spain. E-mail veronicabraganza@hotmail.com**Abstract****Introduction:** The phenomenon of speaking about death and dying is always a challenge, however to speak about it to parents of a terminally ill pediatric patient only makes the challenge greater.**Aim:** The aim of this article is to discuss what death and dying is, the importance of speaking about death and dying, the grief process and the barriers of speaking about death and dying for pediatric nurses. It will also aim to highlight the positive outcomes of breaking the bad news appropriately and how end of life care is encircled in holistically meeting the family's needs.**Method:** A comprehensive search was performed of recent literature related to death and dying in Pediatrics, breaking the bad news, barriers to speaking about death and dying, nurse's role in death and dying, and end of life care. Keyword searches were undertaken to summarize findings published in the past five year and those found in a few landmark studies.**Results:** The reviewed articles focus mainly on various definitions of death and dying, the concepts of a "good and bad" death, breaking the bad news and barriers associated with this process. It stresses the important role nurses play. Additionally, many studies focus on the importance of end-of-life care and Kubler Ross stages of grief. Furthermore, a lot of attention is given to the perceptions of nurses about their comfort with speaking about death and dying and the barriers they feel when discussing this topic and how nurses need to be supported as well through this difficult process.**Conclusion:** Nursing care in totality is caring for the patient and the family together. In order to achieve this uphill task it is recommended that nurses develop their skills of communication and comfort with this topic. But at an organizational level it is recommended that nurses be allowed to share the experiences and difficulties they face speaking about death and dying. Also specialized nurses should be part of the health care team to address palliative care in terminally ill children, to educate families and to help families through this difficult journey.**Key words:** pediatrics, nursing, nurses, death and dying, breaking bad news, grief model, end of life care.