

PReP 8.2 - Palliative Care

Lesson 3 - The Argument

Pat:

I am NOT saying alternative remedies aren't useful! All I'm saying is - look. Judy needs some time to think through this. She must still be in shock!

Nancy:

We have to keep her positive. We have to be her strength through all of this. All I know is I'm going to do everything to keep her going.

Pat:

Nancy! What about what Judy wants?

Host:

Emotions felt along the palliative journey are not static - what a patient requires when they are given their terminal prognosis is rarely what they need as their condition deteriorates. By engaging in ongoing communication with patients, we learn to 'read' where they are emotionally at any given point along this journey. One day they may want a hopeful cheering team. Other times, someone to share thoughts about their funeral. It may be one person or several who fulfill these different roles. Where relatives and friends may find it hard to be attuned to these changing needs, medical professionals can provide invaluable advice based on their experience. "Hope does not lie in a way out but in a way through", as Robert Frost said.