
Table 1: Family physicians' perceived barriers to discussion of code status

Personal discomfort with acknowledging mortality

Challenge presented by impending discussion about death with patients who are young, acutely ill or in a situation where the focus has been on cure

Fear that raising the topic of death will compromise the doctor-patient relationship or cause harm to the patient

Limited opportunity or ability to establish rapport and trust with the patient within the time constraints imposed by the patient's condition or the other demands of practice and training

Difficulty in managing conflict between family members

Paucity of role modelling and training in communication skills related to broaching with patients the topics of code status and death

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