
Table 2: Implications of findings for practice and education

Family physicians view the initiation of code-status discussions with their hospitalized patients as a legitimate and beneficial role, despite the inherent challenges

Physicians in training and in practice need to explore their own feelings and attitudes toward death, so that they can approach their patients openly in discussions about resuscitation

Physicians need specific training on how to raise the topics of resuscitation and death without compromising their relationship with the patient or causing harm to the patient

Physicians need to develop and practise effective strategies for establishing trust and determining code status with their patients within the time constraints imposed by practice, training and the patient's condition

Family physicians need to develop an understanding of family dynamics and expertise in communication skills so that they can manage conflicts related to resuscitation decisions; colleagues should be available for consultation in difficult situations

Family physicians in training and in practice welcome a variety of methods to learn these skills, including modelling of code-status discussions by experienced practitioners, practice sessions with coaching and feedback on communication skills, and sessions designed to promote self-awareness

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