



Bereavement Care Toolkit

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Are you aware of the range and scope of bereavement support and counselling available within your hospital, in the community, and online? Consider how these resources could be collected and made accessible to staff and patients.
- ☐ Are you comfortable talking to and supporting the patient's family, carers, and friends with their grief immediately following a death? If not, where can you obtain further support and/or education?
- ☐ Support the wishes of families and carers who want to access faith-based supports or engage in religious or cultural practices once the person dies. This may include ceremonies, prayer, or cleansing rituals with the body.
- ☐ Are you able to identify those family members or carers who may be at risk of more complicated grief? Become familiar with your workplace process for following up or referring to specialist bereavement services.
- ☐ Explore your own experiences of loss and bereavement. Support options might include the Employee Assistance Scheme, talking to your GP or a trusted colleague.

HELPFUL LINKS

- CareSearch. 2026. Acute Care: [Grief and Bereavement](#)
- Palliative Care Australia and the Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement. 2018. [Grief and Bereavement Policy Statement](#)
- Palliative Care Network of Wisconsin. 2024. [Grief and Bereavement](#)
- Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach. 2020. [Cultural considerations: providing end of life care for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples](#)

VIDEOS, BLOGS, PODCASTS

- Bisset, et al. 2026. CareSearch Palliative Perspectives: [Understanding grief and bereavement - before and after loss - with support from Palliative Care Connect](#)
- NHS Education for Scotland. 2024. [The value of listening: a life shared](#)
- NSW Government Agency for Clinical Innovation. 2022. [Loss, grief and bereavement](#)

FURTHER READING

- Bloomer MJ, Poon P, Runacres F, Hutchinson AM. Facilitating family needs and support at the end of life in hospital: A descriptive study. *Palliat Med*. 2022 Mar;36(3):549-554. [doi: 10.1177/02692163211066431](#)
- Brekelmans ACM, Ramnarain D, de Haas M, Ruitinga R, Pouwels S. Evaluation of ICU end-of-life and bereavement care by relatives of deceased ICU patients. *Respir Med*. 2022 Oct;202:106972. [doi: 10.1016/j.rmed.2022.106972](#)
- Lichtenthal WG, Roberts KE, Donovan LA, Breen LJ, Aoun SM, Connor SR, Rosa WE. Investing in bereavement care as a public health priority. *Lancet Public Health*. 2024 Apr;9(4):e270-e274. [doi: 10.1016/S2468-2667\(24\)00030-6](#)