GP Registrars’ Experience of Death & Bereavement Care

Dr Casey Maddren  Academic Registrar
University Of Sydney
To explore GP Registrars’ experience of and reaction to death and bereavement care.

In particular their:
- exposure to death and dying in their patient/s
- Feelings of preparedness
- Particular challenges faced
WHY
TEACH
WHAT
TEACHING

• How are we going?
• What are our strengths?
• Where could we improve?
WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT

• Implications
  • Relatives
  • Patients
  • Doctors
RELATIVES
“THE PERSON WITH TERMINAL ILLNESS IS LOSING ALL THEIR LOVED ONES AT ONCE”
DOCTORS

Is it important for us?
General Practice Netherlands

43 themes
with 3 main groupings

- doctor – reactions
- environment - culture, context
- patient – relationship & type of death

Verhoeven 2011
Common Concerns

- fear of making mistakes
- Different approaches in hospital & GP
- Effect of training vs personal experience
- Different approaches to contacting the bereaved
- Doctors own sense of loss

Saunderson 1999
Communication with patients regarding dying

- Doctor patient relationship
- Perception of Patient Needs
- Personal experience and identification with the patient

Kelly et al 2008
Implications: against the tide

