

FAILED RESUSCITATION: CONSIDERATIONS FOR FAMILY SUPPORT

1. If the resuscitation is underway and the outlook is poor, prepare the family by telling them so.
2. At the moment of calling the code, let the family know with no uncertainty that death has occurred.
3. If you can do so with honesty, tell the family the following:
 - ✓ You did all you could and were successful in doing the procedures that could have helped, but the efforts were to no avail
 - ✓ This death was not preventable and that in this case, even were the patient to be in an intensive care unit when it happened, the result would have been the same
 - ✓ The patient did not suffer - death was quick and or painless
4. To the best of your ability, offer words of condolence.
5. Make physical contact with the family members, if you are comfortable in doing so.
6. Offer to contact family, friends, or clergy to provide immediate support.
7. Answer any questions the family might have.
8. Allow the family members to view the body if they desire, but discourage their observation of the resuscitation process.
9. Remain with the family to show your respect and concern, as long as other emergency responsibilities do not call you away.