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DESCRIBING THE EXPERIENCE OF THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM AFTER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POST-DEATH PAUSE IN A PRIVATE LEVEL II TRAUMA CENTRE IN SOUTH AFRICA

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Many emergency personnel experience the death of a patient as inherent part of their job. When faced with death, we all react and process our feelings and emotions differently. Some can return to work as if they did not face death and for others, they experience turmoil of emotions and if they do not work through and process those feelings, they could develop critical incident stress symptoms. The daily incidents that multi-disciplinary teams confront can have profound and lasting impact on these people. Some evidence shows that when these people do not

receive situational support after experiencing stress in the work setting they are not able to easily process the experience. Debriefing takes time and one cannot always get the same team available at the same time and at the same place within 24 hours after the unexpected death of a patient thus leading to no form of debriefing. We want to focus on how the multi-disciplinary teams experience the situation by means of the post-death pause.

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