

# Hospice and Palliative Care

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Mr C had terminal cancer of the colon. He was keen to have Tibetan Buddhist rituals and prayers prior to and after his death so he can have a good rebirth. A requirement was no touching of the body for 8 hours after the last breath leaves his body for the soul to leave peacefully. Tibetan Buddhists believe the soul is still around in the body until 8 hours after death. The dilemma for the health care worker was how to pronounce time of death of the patient. A win compromise was achieved after health care workers discussed and analyzed the inputs from the family and the monks. The ECG monitor was set up before the 8 hours period. This allowed the health care worker and the monks to know when death (asystole) occurred. Just before his demise,

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