

A Consumer Commentary: Interventions for Preparing for Conversations with Patients and their Careers and Families about End-Of-Life Care Decisions

Henderson A* and Young J

School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of the Sunshine Coast Sippy Downs, QLD, Australia

***Corresponding author:** Amanda Henderson, PhD, BA (Hons) RN Senior Lecturer, School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of the Sunshine Coast Sippy Downs, QLD, Australia, Tel: +617 54565842; E-mail: ahender1@usc.edu.au

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Short Communication

End-of-life (EoL) care conversations between health practitioners and the patient and their family and/or carers are an important and difficult component of care that goes well beyond the scope of a “difficult conversation.” An important aspect of EoL care is to also support family and carers’ continued involvement with the dying person. Such involvement has been reported to allow for consensus decision-making, development of realistic care goals, and assists the family to deal with their distress [1-3]. A systematic review of relative experiences in EoL care clearly links family and carer satisfaction with their experiences of communication and support from the healthcare team [4,5]. Only by being involved from the “other side”, as the patient or their family/carer, can the impact of the EoL conversation, or its omission, be fully appreciated. A consumer (patient/family/carer)