

Annotation

Key words : Old age, dying , death, paliative care, pain, DNR, Advanced Directives, euthanasia, dignified death, nun, religion

The goal of this bachelor's thesis is to analyze the difference in how dying and death are understood by atheistic nurses and as opposed to nuns who work as nurses at hospitals, The thesis also investigates the term „dignified death“, and the possibilities for patients to influence how their lives end. This topic is one that has yet to be fully investigated.

A qualitative observational study was carried out by way of conversation or dialogue with six nurses from the Faculty Hospital in Hradeck Kralove, three of whom were atheistic and three of whom were nuns of St.Vincent's order. The result of research is that religious faith makes nuns more empathic to dying patiens and their family, while atheistic nurses care for dying patiens with professionalism and sort of psychological distace – to protect themselves.