Staff perceptions of essential care goals in providing end-of-life care for dying patients in ICU

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Introduction
Nurses are challenged in their efforts to provide quality end-of-life care in the intensive care settings that emphasize curative and aggressive lifesaving treatment.

Objectives
To better address end-of-life issues for dying patients in ICU, work was undertaken to understand the perspectives of nurses working in an adult ICU in Hong Kong.

Methodology
A qualitative interpretative design composed of five group interviews involved eighteen intensive care nurses.

Result
Two core themes were identified: (1) building upon caring the dying patients and their family as a whole-offering navigational assistance to provide quality and sensitive care; (2) supporting comfort and peaceful death for dying patients in ICU. Challenges were raised for the ICU nurses for person-family centred care approach and interdisciplinary collaboration.