Vision Legacy Palliative Care Unit
Capital Health, Halifax, Nova Scotia

What’s Next?
- Continue incorporate in workflow
- Opportunity in home care/province-wide palliative care services
- Poster accepted International Congress on Care of the Terminally Ill, Montreal, 2006
- Research opportunities

Project Leadership
- P. McIntyre, MD, CCFP
- H. MacDonald, MN, CNS, CCCN(C)
- Kate Hackett, BSc, CTBS, CEBT
- Diane Casey, BN
- Shelley MacLeod, RN
- Dawne Westhaver, RN
- Andreas Flouris

Objectives
- Educate PC Unit staff/identify local champions
- Educate Pt/family
- Screen new admissions for eligibility
- Provide eligible donors with opportunity
- Evaluate

Process
- Vision Legacy Assessment form in new admit package
- Approach eligible patient/family
- Advise Tissue Bank Specialist (TBS)
- Place color coded sticker placed on Kardex
- Advise TBS of death
- Post mortem eye care
- Custom Tissue Bank reports

Literature Review
Cornea donation within palliative care: a review of the literature. Intl J Pall Nurs 2005
"Cornea donation occurs infrequently within palliative care, even though the majority of the public say they are in favour of donating organs and tissue after death."
"Majority had thought the deceased was ineligible for donation due to cancer or old age."

Hypotheses
- Purpose and meaning to dying patient
- Helps family during grieving process
- Living legacy

Dignity-Conserving Care:
A New Model for Palliative Care. Helping the Pt Feel Valued.
Chochinov. JAMA. 2002;287:2253–60

Study
- Workshop effective in increasing knowledge
- 49 consecutive admissions screened
- 30% patients eligible
- 50% eligible patients donated corneas
- 50% approaches initiated by family; 50% by RN’s
- Tissue viability rate equals general donor population
- Nine successful cornea transplants

Tools and Resources
- Family information folder
- Skills Workshop for staff
- Palliative care video
- Pocket reference card for staff
- Reference binder for Unit
- Color coded stickers for Kardex
- Eye care kits with instruction

Timeline
- Planning initiated April 2005
- May–September 2005: education/staff focus groups
- Prospective QI pilot: Nov ’05–Jan ’06

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