



The 11th Palliative Care Congress Glasgow 2016

Session Abstract

Enhancing access to bereavement services: a changing remit for palliative care?

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1440 - 1525

Bereavement services are integral to palliative care. Service development was grounded in a health promotion model aiming to prevent, or alleviate 'complicated grief' by providing supportive or therapeutic counselling. While this approach remains at the core, services are being challenged to widen their remit to help people access support and interventions to meet their needs. Research has delineated different grief trajectories and a range of needs. On the one hand there is greater understanding of how to recognise and work with complex grief reactions and the need for specialist counselling while others have argued that services should focus on developing public understanding, 'normalising' grief and creating more compassionate communities to improve support for all. This presentation will discuss the roles and responsibilities of palliative care bereavement services within this wider framework. It will argue that palliative care bereavement services should avoid working in isolation but develop partnerships with community groups and with other services across health care settings. This will enhance access to wider range of support to meet the diverse needs of bereaved people.