

# Bereavement Call

- Suggested texts when telephoning bereaved relatives after a death.
- Hello Mrs/Mr/.....
- This is Dr.....calling. The purpose of my call is to offer my condolences to you and your family after the death/passing of .....
- It has been/was a privilege to have been associated with the medical care of ..... for the last.....months/years. I have been impressed by his/her strength in the face of his/her illness and the dignified way in which he/she faced the final stages of his/her life. This has been an inspiration to me, my medical and nursing colleagues, and the other patients who so valued their association with him/her. ....will be missed by his/her renal/dialysis “family”.
- This must be a very busy and difficult time for you, so I do not want to take up too much of your time, but please don't hesitate to contact me, or one of the other members of the renal team if there is anything we can help you with.

# Writing a condolence letter.

- Acknowledge the loss and name the deceased.
- Express your sympathy...remind the bereaved that they are not alone in their grief.
- Note special qualities of the deceased.
- Recall a memory of the deceased.
- Remind the bereaved of their personal strengths.
- Offer help, but be specific and be prepared to follow through.
- End with a word or phrase of sympathy.

# Writing a condolence letter.

Dear

I felt that I wanted to write to you because I have been thinking increasingly about your late husband/father/brother/sister/mother \_\_\_\_\_ as I walk through the wards of St. Paul's/VGH/other hospital.

I fondly remember \_\_\_\_\_ courage and humour despite the seriousness of his/her illness. I remember too his/her unfailing love of the work he/she did and how he/she placed a photograph of \_\_\_\_\_ near his/her bed in the ward at \_\_\_ Hospital.

His/her strength has left an indelible memory and has once again taught me how the human spirit can overcome almost all adversity.

I hope that you and your remarkable children are finding your own strength to overcome your loss.

With fondest regards.

Yours sincerely,

# Reference

## The Doctor's Letter of Condolence.

Bedell, Cadenhead, Graboys. N Eng J Med, Vol 344, No. 15, Apr 12, 2001