Case study

Huiliang



You are talking to a colleague who is caring for a 45-year-old woman, Huiliang.

Reasons for palliative care

Huiliang has breast cancer and is approaching her last days of life.

Symptom management

Your colleague is worried about continuing to maintain medication because Huiliang is struggling to take the medication orally and is getting visibly distressed. She has talked to the family, who think Huiliang is unnecessarily upset and they want your colleague to stop the medication.

Identify the issues in the scenario.

Identify the opposing or competing values.

Discuss then list the options.

If possible, identify an outcome or decision.

Case study

Richard



Reason for palliative care

Richard is an 80-year-old man who has chronic renal failure. He has been on dialysis for years.

His decision

He recently had a stroke and now wants to stop dialysis. He understands and accepts what this means. His wife is very upset and is struggling to let him go.

Identify the issues in the scenario.

Identify the opposing or competing values.

Discuss then list the options.

If possible, identify an outcome or decision.

Case study

Sefina



Sefina is a 68-year-old woman.

Reason for palliative care

Sefina has congestive cardiac failure. She is in a hospital and is approaching her last days of life. Her three children rotate who is with her, so she is never alone.

Artificial nutrition and hydration

She can no longer feed herself. Her children have noticed that she is no longer interested in meals and they are struggling to get her to drink water or tea, which she usually loves. They are worried about this and that she will starve or become dehydrated.

Identify the issues in the scenario.

Identify the opposing or competing values.

Discuss then list the options.

If possible, identify an outcome or decision.

Case study

Matilda



Matilda is a 78-year-old woman whose husband recently died. All of her family live overseas. She is a long-term resident in the facility.

Emotional wellbeing

You have known Matilda for several years and she often talks about her life and interests. When she was well, she loved walking her dog with her husband at the local park.

One day you notice Matilda looking out of the window, looking sad. You ask her what is wrong and she says, 'I miss all the walks we used to do.'

What could you say in response?

How can you get more details from Matilda?

What are her spiritual needs?

How might you address them?