

# WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO CARE?

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# SETTING THE SCENE

The care crisis

Some contradictions:

- Medical EoL care appreciated
- Medicalisation of death criticised
- Is replacing medicalisation by professionalisation the answer?

# What's the HCP's role at EoL?

1. Mechanic?
  2. Presence?
  3. Enabler?
  4. Holistic healer?
- Finally, a few comments on compassionate communities, and care homes

# 1) Fixing

- Crit of mind-body dualism
- Defence of the medic mechanic

*And nb...*

- 'interventions'
- service 'delivery'
- 'care' 'packages'

## 2) Presence

- Cicely Saunders: Watch with me
- Attentive presence
- PLC
- Can audit / RCTs measure presence?

# 3) Enabling

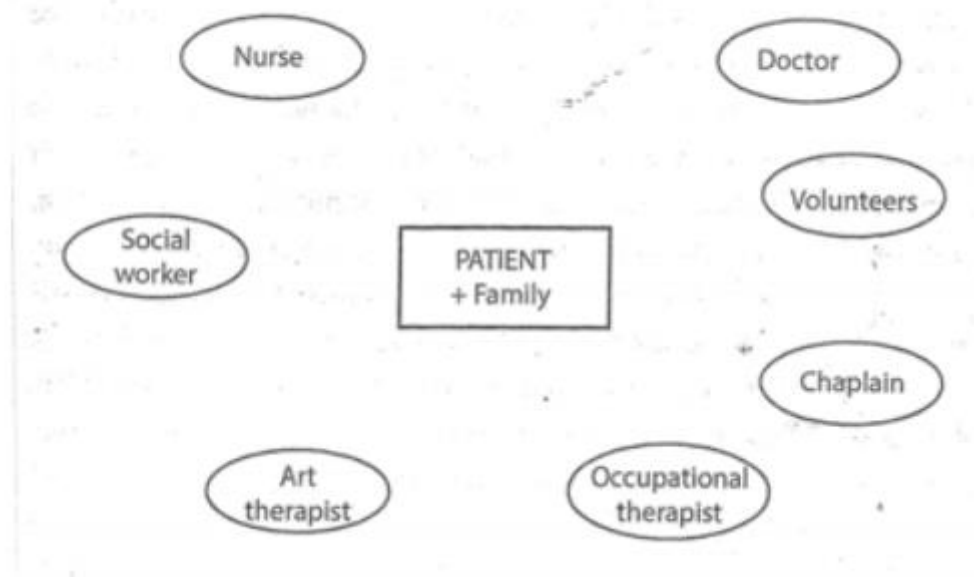
Yasmin Gunaratnam *Death and the Migrant (2013)*

- Enabling patients/families
- Limits

## 4) Holistic healing

- Total pain
- The MDT

Figure 4.1 Palliative care multidisciplinary team





# But:

- Expands medical gaze
- Expands professional gaze
- Empowering?
- Disempowering?
- Do some (esp men) prefer mechanics?
- Resources

# Compassionate communities

Figure 4.2: Compassionate community network



# Compassionate community: some issues:

- Non-cancer dying
- HCPs to target those who are network poor
- Doing & talking
- Death shatters individuals/families/communities, yet our response can also (re)build them

# Care homes (and hospitals)

- Loneliness
- Porous institutions

THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

COMMENTS?

CRITICISMS?