

Review questions

1. What signs and symptoms indicate that adults are likely to be entering their final days of life; or that they may be recovering? How are uncertainties about either situation dealt with?
2. What are the barriers and facilitators to good communication between the dying person, those important to them and the healthcare professional surrounding the likelihood of entering the last days of life?
3. What are the facilitators and barriers to the multi-professional team, dying person and those important to them in being involved in shared decision-making to inform the development of personalised care plans for the last few days of life?
4. In patients in their last days of life, is clinically assisted hydration effective in improving symptoms and general comfort?
5. For people in the last days of life, which pharmacological agents are most effective in relieving troublesome respiratory secretions and what degree of sedation do they cause.
6. For people in the last days of life, which pharmacological agents are most effective in relieving pain, breathlessness, anxiety, agitation and delirium and what degree of sedation do they cause?
7. For people in the last days of life, which pharmacological agents are most effective in relieving nausea and vomiting and what degree of sedation do they cause?
8. What are the experiences, opinions and attitudes of healthcare professionals the dying person and those important them regarding access to anticipatory prescribing?
9. How effective is anticipatory prescribing at improving comfort in adults in the last days of life compared with prescribing at the bed side?