



STUDENT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

LEVEL: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

### WORKSHEET 3 DEATH AND DYING

In the [hospital setting](#), both nurses and doctors play critical, complementary roles in the [care](#) of patients during the dying process. Their [shared goal](#) is to [ensure](#) that patients receive compassionate, [high-quality care](#) while minimizing suffering and supporting the [emotional needs](#) of both the patient and their family. The roles of nurses and doctors, while distinct, [overlap](#) in many ways to provide comprehensive [end-of-life care](#).

#### Role of Doctors:

Doctors, particularly those specializing in [palliative care](#), oncology, or intensive care, are primarily responsible for diagnosing the patient's condition and determining [the most appropriate](#) course of treatment. In the dying process, their role [shifts](#) from curative interventions to [focusing](#) on palliative care [aimed](#) at improving the patient's comfort and [quality of life](#). Doctors are responsible for [assessing](#) the patient's condition, prescribing medications to [manage pain](#) and other symptoms (such as nausea, [breathlessness](#), or anxiety), and making decisions about whether to [continue or withdraw](#) aggressive treatments like resuscitation or mechanical ventilation.

Doctors also play a key role in communicating with patients and their families about the [prognosis](#), the expected course of the dying process, and treatment options. This often includes discussing advanced directives, do-not-resuscitate (DNR) orders, and whether to [pursue hospice care](#). These conversations require sensitivity, as they often involve delivering [difficult news](#) and helping families make emotionally charged decisions about their loved one's care.

#### Role of Nurses:

Nurses are more continuously involved in the [direct care](#) of the dying patient, often spending more time at the [bedside](#) than doctors. They are responsible for the [ongoing monitoring of the patient's condition](#), managing [pain](#) and symptoms as

prescribed, and providing emotional and [psychological support](#). Nurses act as patient [advocates](#), [ensuring](#) that the patient's [wishes](#) are honored and that the care team remains aligned with the goals of comfort and dignity.

In addition to [administering medications](#), nurses provide [comfort measures](#) such as repositioning the patient, managing [wounds](#), and ensuring that [basic needs](#), such as hydration and hygiene, are met. They also play a critical role in educating the patient's family about what to expect during the dying process and how they can participate in providing comfort to their loved one.

### **Collaborative Care:**

The care of dying patients in a hospital often involves [close collaboration](#) between doctors and nurses. Together, they coordinate care plans, [reassess](#) the patient's needs, and [adjust treatment](#) to maintain comfort. Nurses frequently [update](#) doctors on [changes](#) in the patient's condition, allowing for timely medical interventions or [adjustments](#) in care strategies.

Both nurses and doctors also work [alongside](#) social workers, [chaplains](#), and other hospital staff to address the spiritual and [emotional needs](#) of patients and their families. This [interdisciplinary approach](#) ensures that end-of-life care is [holistic](#), attending not only to physical symptoms but also to the psychological and [existential concerns](#) that arise during the dying process.

In essence, doctors provide the [medical leadership](#) and direction of care, while nurses deliver ongoing, hands-on care and [support](#). Together, they create a [compassionate environment](#) that honors the patient's dignity, reduces suffering, and supports families through one of the most [challenging](#) experiences they may face.

Based on the text provided, classify the roles as belonging to **Doctors**, **Nurses**, or **Both**. Write your answers in the blank spaces.

1. **Prescribing medications to manage pain and other symptoms** \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Monitoring the patient's condition continuously at the bedside** \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Discussing prognosis and treatment options with the patient's family** \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Administering medications and repositioning the patient for comfort** \_\_\_\_\_
5. **Making decisions about whether to continue or withdraw aggressive treatments** \_\_\_\_\_
6. **Educating the patient's family about the dying process and comfort measures** \_\_\_\_\_
7. **Assessing the patient's condition and determining the course of treatment** \_\_\_\_\_

8. Providing emotional support and psychological care to patients and families \_\_\_\_\_
9. Collaborating on care plans to adjust treatments based on patient needs \_\_\_\_\_
10. Delivering direct, hands-on care throughout the dying process \_\_\_\_\_