

**TITOLO:** Accompagnamento al fine vita: indagine multicentrica agli infermieri pediatrici sui comportamenti che ostacolano o favoriscono questo percorso.

*Accompanying the end of life: a multicentric survey for pediatric nurses on behaviours that prevent or facilitate this path*

## **Abstract**

**Introduction.** The pediatric nurses play are often called on to face the death of their young patients. They have to take care of children who die and their families. The accompaniment to the end of life is a difficult path, which requires not only technical skills, but most important skills.

**Goals.** The aim of this thesis is to analyze the path accompanying the end of life of pediatric patients. In particular we want to investigate what are the behaviors, attitudes and situations that can help or hinder nurses and pediatric nurses play to best fulfill their role in this process.

**Materials and methods.** The study starts from the analysis of the existing literature regarding the concept of death, its history, meaning that it assumes when it becomes reality for a child, the emotions it arouses in parents and the role that the pediatric nurses play as professionals in accompany the end of the child and his family. In some units of the AOU City of Health and Science of Turin, in hospitals St. Anne and Queen Margherita, a specific questionnaire, "*Ostacoli e comportamenti d'aiuto nel provvedere alle cure di fine vita ai bambini morenti e alle loro famiglie*", original, validate and modified by the article "*Obstacles and Helpful Behaviors in Providing End-of-life Care to dying Patients in Intensive Care Units*" di ME Losa Iglesias, from the magazine "*Dimensions of critical care nursing* 2013 Mar-Apr; 32(2):99-106", has been sent to nurses and pediatric nurses in order to figure out, according to their perceptions, which behaviors facilitate or impede the path accompanying death.

**Results.** The questionnaires have brought to light the opinions of nurses on the strengths and weaknesses of the path accompanying death. It was found that, what is extremely difficult, is the communication with terminal children and manage family anxiety. No further substantial difficulties have yet been reported.

**Conclusions.** The survey results do not always coincide with what is perceived by attending departments during periods of training; since, however, perceptions and feelings can not be assessed because the aversion "physiological" in this delicate topic affects the results. It's , however, denied a lost-existent reticence in dealing with the topic of the end of life.

**PAROLE CHIAVE:** Accompanying the dying children; Questionnaire/Survey; Obstacles and Helpful behavior; Pediatric nurses

