

FAILED RESUSCITATION: CONSIDERATIONS FOR FAMILY SUPPORT

1. If the resuscitation is underway and the outlook is poor, prepare the family by telling them so.
2. At the moment of calling the code, let the family know with no uncertainty that death has occurred.
3. If appropriate, tell the family the following:
 - ✓ You did all you could and were successful in doing the procedures that could have helped, but the efforts were to no avail
 - ✓ This death was not preventable and that in this case, even were the patient to be in an intensive care unit when it happened, the result would have been the same
4. To the best of your ability, offer words of condolence.
5. Offer to contact family, friends, or clergy to provide immediate support.
6. Answer any questions the family might have and advise of the continued procedure.
7. Allow family members to view the resuscitation process as long as they do not impede with resuscitation efforts. Allow family members to view the body, if desired.
8. Remain with the family to show your respect and concern, as long as other emergency responsibilities do not call you away.