

Poster Session I  
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*End of Life: A Concept Analysis*

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**Purpose:** To analyze the concept of “end of life” by exploring literature from various disciplines.

**Background:** Issues surrounding a person’s end of life have gained attention in recent years. With the rapid advancement of technology in health care, people are living longer with chronic, debilitating illnesses with the help of sophisticated machinery, procedures and medications. This blurs the line between life and death, causing health care workers such as nurses to have a poor understanding of the concept of “end of life”. Physical, psychological, social and spiritual elements of a person’s end of life have been studied in nursing and medical research, yet neither discipline has examined the concept of “end of life”.

**Approach:** Walker and Avant’s method of concept analysis was utilized in order to identify a definition, assumptions, characteristics, antecedents and consequences of the concept of one’s end of life.

**Major Points and Rationale:** The analysis and creation of a definition of end of life may help to assist health care workers to more fully understand the concept and apply the knowledge to theories, research and clinical practice.

**Conclusions:** End of life is inadequately defined in the literature. This concept is vague and requires further research in order to develop a more comprehensive definition as well as improve nursing care of individuals at end of life.