



NHS Education for Scotland

**Bereavement Education Conference 2022: 'Unexpected Death – An Emergency Department perspective' promotional clip**

**Speaker:** Dr Katherine Ritchie – Consultant in Emergency Medicine, NHS Grampian

My name's Katy Ritchie, I'm a Consultant in Emergency Medicine. I work in NHS Grampian, across Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, the Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital and Doctor Gray's Hospital in Elgin.

So, our workshop for the NES Bereavement Conference is going to look at unexpected death in an Emergency Department setting. So, while we would see death reasonably frequent in the Emergency Department, is almost always unexpected circumstances. So, we'd like to look at how that impacts both the relatives or the family of patients who unfortunately died in the Emergency Department but also for the team as well, so our conference workshop is going to form a panel discussion with myself, there'll be a member of our senior nursing staff, there will be a reception team member and one of our portering team members as well as a physician associate as well. Just to give a bit of a perspective from the wider team, because sometimes the members of staff that you might not automatically think of such as domestic or portering staff, can witness really quite distressing scenes, so it's really valuable to have their perspective on things and how we can best support the team as a whole.

The key learning points or take-home messages from the day will be looking at how these traumatic or just unexpected deaths really, affect the whole of the Emergency Department, the wider team, so perhaps members of domestic and portering staff can encounter scenes that they wouldn't necessarily expect to see in their day-to-day work, and that can be quite distressing. How we support the wider team and ourselves in recovering from witnessing some of these scenes; we'll look at formal and informal things that we can do to help to support with that. And looking at some tips and experiences we've had with how it can be dealing with family relatives and in some of these circumstances as well.

The film was produced in October 2022 and can be found at <https://www.sad.scot.nhs.uk/events/2022-conference/> or <https://vimeo.com/757514582>

For more information visit [www.sad.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.sad.scot.nhs.uk) or contact [supportarounddeath@nes.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:supportarounddeath@nes.scot.nhs.uk)

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