

## Care Practices for Families Facing Prenatal Loss

Supporting families facing a life-limiting prenatal diagnosis requires compassion and thoughtful care. Medical professionals can ease the burden by prioritizing comfort, communication, and personalized support, showing a deep commitment to grieving parents' needs.



### OFFER PRIVATE WAITING AREAS

Allow grieving parents to wait in a private area or go directly to an exam room after check-in, sparing them the emotional strain of public waiting spaces.



### SCHEDULE EXTRA TIME

Extend appointment times to allow for thorough counseling, planning, and emotional support for families carrying to term.



### LONGER ULTRASOUND APPOINTMENTS

Allocate extra time for ultrasounds, giving parents a chance to connect with their baby and create cherished keepsakes like additional sonogram photos or videos.



### REVIEW, PREPARE, AND SHOW YOU CARE

Ensure everyone involved in a family's care is informed. A quick review of the patient's chart and communication with colleagues can spare grieving parents the emotional strain of retelling their story.



### USE CHART SYMBOLS

Use a discreet symbol, like a colored dot or star, on patient charts to indicate complications. On delivery day, this ensures staff avoid offering congratulations that could unintentionally cause pain for grieving parents.



### PROVIDE CONTINUITY OF CARE

Assign the same one or two professionals to families facing a prenatal diagnosis. For example, ensure the same ultrasound technician sees the family each time for consistency and support.



### COMMUNICATE WITH THE CARE TEAM

Allow grieving parents to wait in a private area or go directly to an exam room after check-in, sparing them the emotional strain of public waiting spaces.



### HOLD CARE CONFERENCES

Care conferences with the patient and their entire care team are essential for discussing the family's birth plan, coordinating care, and understanding their preferences for pregnancy and delivery.