

Role: social worker

You are a PICU social worker. You have been asked to attend the care conference for a 5-year-old boy with a progressive genetic disorder. The boy is severely handicapped, ventilator dependent and fed via a gastrostomy tube. You have met the parents many times over the past 2 years, since their son is frequently admitted to the PICU with respiratory exacerbations. In the past, you have tried assist the parents in arranging at-home nursing care for their son, but they have always refused. You know that the parents care very strongly for their son and are very protective over him. They love to show you pictures of him at home with his siblings and pet dog, usually smiling and appearing happy.

For this exercise, you are part of a care conference with one of the patient's parent, the PICU attending, a consultant expert in his genetic disease, and the bedside RN. The attending will lead the care conference. You will be there to offer emotional support to the parents, but also to provide information on local hospice organizations.