

A Difficult Goodbye

To the patient

Goodbye - we hope we kept you comfortable, we hope you felt safe and cared for. But most importantly, we hope you didn't feel alone, because you were not. We were all here for you. The entire interdisciplinary team was here for you. We were advocating for you, taking care of you like you were our loved one. We cannot imagine how difficult it must have been for you to have been on this journey alone, without your loved ones by your side to hold your hand and tell you everything was going to be okay. But we did this for you - we held your hand and we told you everything would be okay. We FaceTimed, Zoomed and called your family and loved ones. They said their goodbyes and said it was okay for you to move on. Some were even at your bedside, dressed in full protective equipment like the members of your healthcare team. The loved ones that could not be by your bedside were with you in spirit, phoned for updates and to speak with you, even when you were asleep. You will never be forgotten. You are so loved and you are more than "just a number or statistic." You're an angel who finally gained their wings. May you rest in peace. The world is so blessed to have memories of you.

To the families

Words cannot begin to express how sorry we are for the recent loss of your loved one. Losing people we love is always difficult, but not being able to be with them in their final moments would be much more challenging. Making decisions from home rather than at the bedside of your loved one must have felt uncomfortable. We cannot imagine how much waiting, wishing and hoping you have done. Or how much time you spent sitting by the phone waiting for an important call from the medical team. Despite all of this, please be assured that when the time came, your loved one was not alone, was not suffering and was at peace. Your loved one is not a statistic to us but a dearly loved person who will be missed and remembered. We hope that you find peace and are able to focus on the positive moments you shared with your loved one.

With our greatest sympathy,
-8 West Team (Acute Medicine)
Jenna Pyke RPN

"I am sorry this world could not keep you safe. May your journey home be a soft and peaceful one" (Rupi Kaur 2020).