"Doctors should be trained better when it comes to end of life. We need to improve our fluency in discussing emotions. We need to be okay with saying difficult words, like 'death' and 'dying.'" — Dr. Paloma Marin-Nevarez

Physicians guide to having end-of-life conversations

Through our extensive reporting with medical professionals, we learned that many medical schools often provide insufficient training around death and dying. With the COVID-19 pandemic creating great need, this poster is meant to be a resource for physicians.

The facts
- Delivering news about death can be difficult and emotionally taxing for physicians.
- End-of-life conversations are not a focus for most medical schools.
- There is insufficient training in communication for clinicians.
- In 2020, emergency medicine physicians experienced increased levels of burnout and emotional exhaustion.

Conversation guides
- Looking for guides on having conversations that help patients and family members say goodbye? Here’s a list of resources.
- Looking for steps on how to deliver a death notification? Try the GRIEV_ING mnemonic.
- Want to practice having a conversation? Try this app VitalTalk.

Learn more
- Listen to our story that follows a new doctor dealing with death during the pandemic.
- Have questions or want to share more? Reach us at @KHNews and @reveal.