

and are subject to guilt and shame. They are likely to see deviations from accepted behavior as reasons for their illness.	than for the past or the future. They may consider themselves alienated from their peers and unable to communicate with their parents for emotional support, feeling alone in their struggle. Adolescents' orientation to the present compels them to worry about physical changes even more than the prognosis. Because of their idealistic view of the world, they may criticize funeral rites as barbaric, money making, and unnecessary.	allow for maximum self-control and independence. Answer adolescents' questions honestly, treating them as mature individuals and respecting their needs for privacy, solitude, and personal expressions of emotions. Help parents understand their child's reactions to death and dying, especially that concern for present crises (such as loss of hair) may be much greater than for future ones, including possible death.
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If given the opportunity, children will tell others how much they want to know. Nurses can help children set limits on how much truth they can accept and cope with by asking questions, such as “If the disease came back, would you want to know?” or “Do you want others to tell you everything even if the news isn't good?” or “If someone were not getting better [or more directly, were dying], do you think he would want to know?” Children need time to process feelings and information so that they can assimilate and ideally accept the reality of impending death.

Care of dying adolescents requires the nurse to become knowledgeable about any possible delays or alterations in normal growth and development. Legal and ethical issues also come to the forefront with respect to the age at which an adolescent should have autonomy in decision making with regard to care and treatment. Effective communication among the patient, family, and health care team is an important part of optimal care for dying adolescents ([Barnes, Gardiner, Gott, et al, 2012](#)).

Treatment Options for Terminally Ill Children

Based on the child and family's decision regarding their wishes for terminal care, they have several options from which to choose.

Hospital

Families may choose to remain in the hospital to receive care if the child's illness or condition is unstable and home care is not an option or the family is uncomfortable with providing care at home. If a family chooses to remain at the hospital for terminal care, the