



“Lighting the way with better patient care.”

Anova
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Home Health · Hospice · Palliative · Home Care

HOSPICE PATIENT AND FAMILY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

CHANGES IN SKIN TEMPERATURE AND COLOR

As the body dies, the blood moves away from the extremities toward the vital organs. You may notice that while the extremities are cool that the abdomen is warm. You may notice changes in body temperature.

The dying person may feel hot one minute and cold the next. As death approaches, there may be a high fever. You also may see purplish-bluish blotches and mottling on the legs, arms, or on the underside of the body where blood may be collecting. As death nears, the body may appear yellowish or waxy in color.

What can be done?

- Try to keep the person as comfortable as possible
- Use a damp, cool washcloth to cool a person who feels too hot – be alert to signs such as kicking off the blankets
- Cover the dying person with a blanket if he/she feels too cold. Don't use electric blankets or heating pads as these may burn the skin.
- Alert the hospice team if you notice changes in skin color. This may be a sign that death is near.
- Using a fan to circulate air may make the person more comfortable.

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