Points of Connection: Ways to Continue to Connect with Your Patient

In times of COVID-19 restrictions, while visitation is restricted, patients may look to you for extra support because of limited outside world contact. We offer this *Points* of *Connection* resource as a way to remind you that you're doing the best that you can in light of these difficult times.

Genuine acts of kindness can make the ordinary feel extraordinary.

Music and Storytelling:

Play favorite music, radio stations, television shows, podcasts, sermons, etc.

Encourage storytelling

Offer faith-based prayer, chant, scripture reading

Laughter and jokes are okay

Assist with the person's phone/technology devices:

Make sure their device is charged and in arms reach

With permission, help them to connect via phone calls, text messaging, or video platforms

If appropriate, take pictures of the person to send to family members

The power of your presence and caring intention is invaluable

The Art of Conversation:

Ask about the person's...

hobbies, interests, favorite movies/TV shows, where they're from, words of wisdom

Communicating Caring:

"How can I best care for you?"

"What helps you feel connected to the things that you care about?"

"Can I get you your hearing aides or glasses?"

Environment:

Adjust the lighting Sunshine or darkness

Move the bed To face the window

Decorate the room

Print and hang pictures of loved ones
Display cards or artworks

Offer control

Ask if you can leave the door open or shut

Keep their whiteboard updated

Hearing is a sense that stays with us, even if the person is unresponsive or unconscious

