

Potential Barriers to Diagnosing Dying

1. Hope that the patient may get better
2. Concerns about with-holding or withdrawing treatment
3. Concerns about having the resuscitation conversation
4. Continuation of unrealistic and futile interventions
5. Disagreement about the patients condition among professionals
6. Failure to recognise key symptoms and signs
7. Lack of knowledge and/or experience of the clinician particularly around end of life prescribing
8. Inability to communicate with the patient and/or their relatives
9. Fear of shortening life or of litigation
10. No definitive diagnosis
11. Cultural or spiritual barriers