

Family Support During Initial Resuscitation & ICU

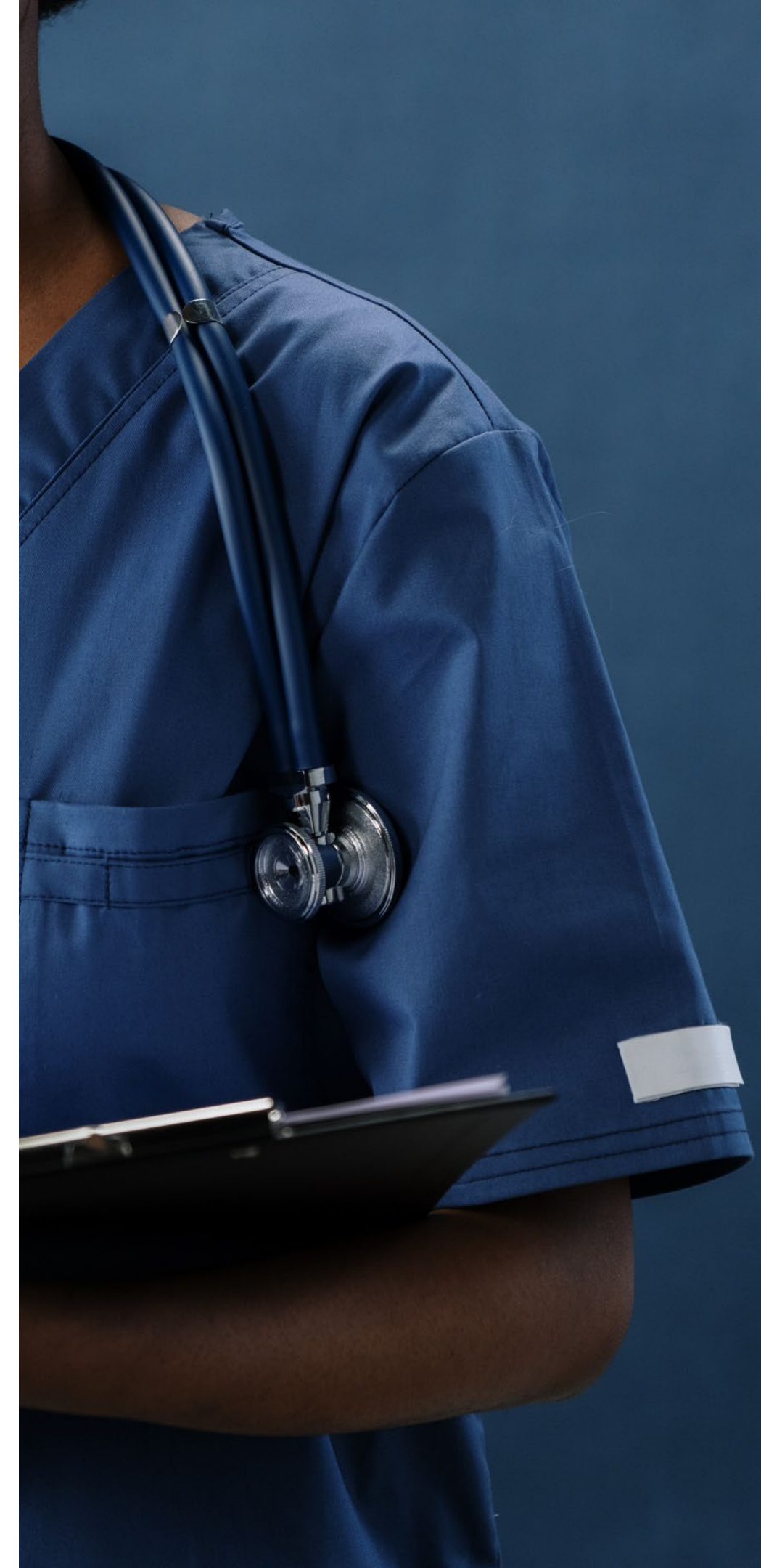
Steven Grigg, MSSW, CSWA

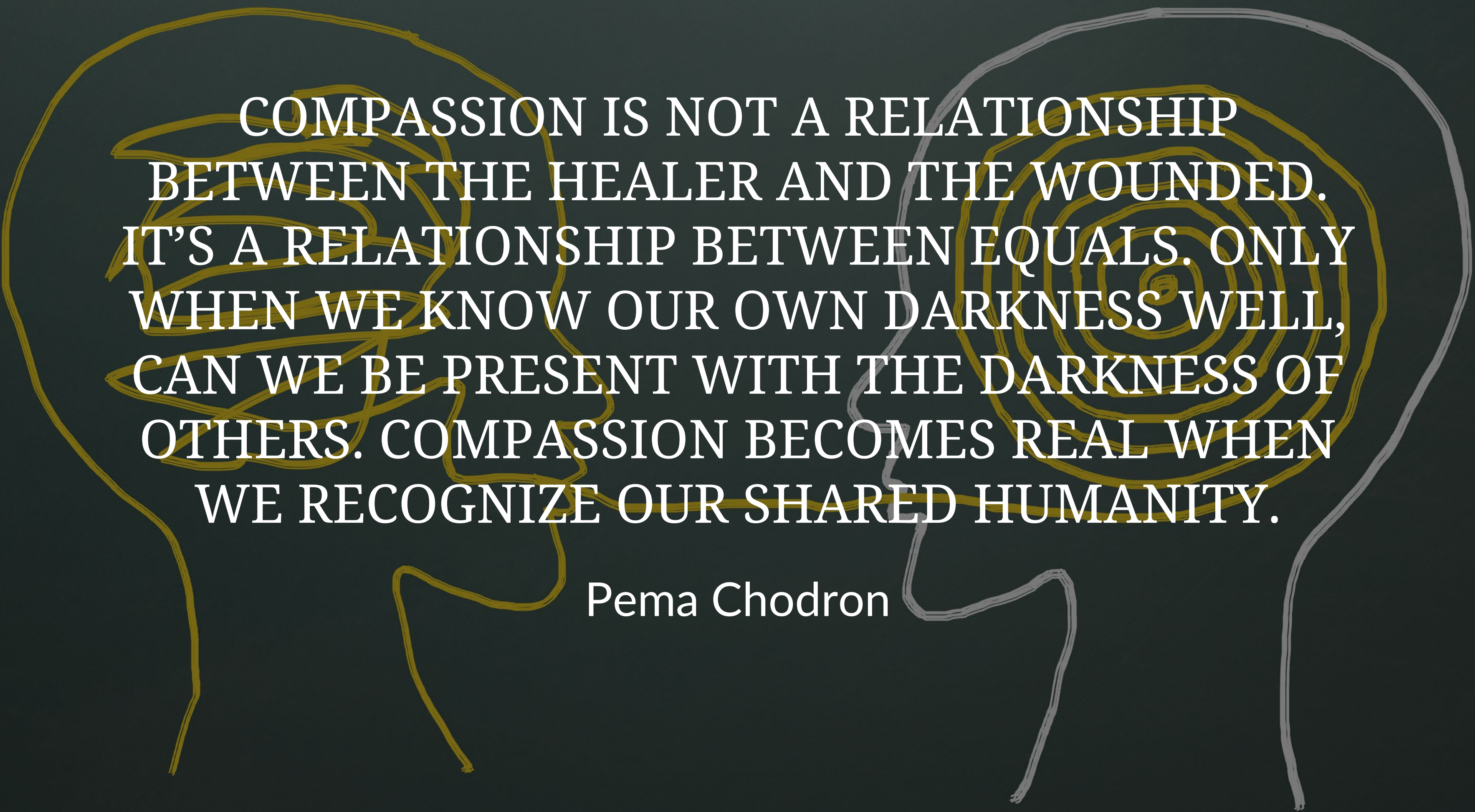
Possible issues impacting OUR practice/coping during patient end-of-life care

- It is more complex than positive or negative, it can be complicated
- Profound feelings of sadness, shock, frustration, anger, guilt, apathy can all occur within the same day or sometimes within the very same moment
- The details/circumstances of the patient's death can play a major role in our response
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- Families and support system presence or lack thereof

Possible issues impacting OUR practice/coping during patient end-of-life care continued

- Our “stuff” including personality, culture and experience form our response to subconsciously
- Loss touches loss, being in the presence of death can conjure our own grief experiences related to our own loss
- You are human...we are all humans, and just approach life differently. We rarely discuss dying as a part of living





COMPASSION IS NOT A RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN THE HEALER AND THE WOUNDED.
IT'S A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EQUALS. ONLY
WHEN WE KNOW OUR OWN DARKNESS WELL,
CAN WE BE PRESENT WITH THE DARKNESS OF
OTHERS. COMPASSION BECOMES REAL WHEN
WE RECOGNIZE OUR SHARED HUMANITY.

Pema Chodron

The pivotal role of nursing during patient end-of-life care

- Nurses have the most exposure to patient and family's potential psychosocial needs
- Nurses extended exposure to patient and family greatly assists with identify their coping, possible interpersonal conflicts, potential barriers to care and risk of acute grief response
- Initiating and providing ongoing support and education regarding the dying process



"The healing power of even the most microscopic exchange with someone who knows in a flash precisely what you're talking about because she experienced that thing too cannot be overestimated."

Cheryl Strayed

The role of social worker in supporting the nurse providing end-of-life care

- Address complicated dynamics that may compromise care environment (family discord)
- Continue counseling by providing emotional support and address need for further resources and possible referral to resources related to grief/loss
- Familiarize family with post-mortem protocol

Tell us what you need...

- Given your experience with patient and family what can Social Work do to enhance the end-of-life transition.
- Do you need us?