

DARG 15/1/25 Jo Sims

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### Upset display in hospice consultations

**Content Warning – Extract includes distress that relates to palliative care and deterioration.**

#### Background

Outpatient Consultation at a UK hospice, between a palliative care doctor and a male patient with advanced cancer, who is attending with his wife. The interaction in the extract is between the companion (wife) and the doctor. The extract occurs about halfway through a 51-minute consultation. This is their first visit to the hospice and first meeting with the consultant. Consultation has been focused on history since diagnosis, symptoms, and medication. The doctor has requested that the patient goes into the next room to be examined. The patient leaves the room with the clinic Health Care Assistant, the doctor remains sitting. Immediately before the extract the doctor has commented that the patient will need more clothes because of weight loss.

#### KEY

Doc – Doctor

Com- Companion (Wife)

**VERDISDOC\_3 25,45 VT799 EO DOC\_3.2 JS**

1 Doc: And how are you  
2 Com: °~hhhOkhhh yeah~°  
3 Doc: Bearing up  
4 Com: °~Yes °°dohhn't.~°° ((holds hand up palm facing doctor))  
5 [ha ha  
6 Doc: [↑ha ha sorry  
7 Com: ~Yeah~  
8 Doc: Usually is that we have got a box of tissues  
9 Com: ~Yeah I'm fine~ (.)(( hold hand out angled downwards))  
10 I'm coping(.)((hand up to face))  
11 Com: °°~I have tohh~°° (0.7)  
12 Doc: °You look as if you're° °°coping°°  
13 Com: °°yes°° shh  
14 (0.4)  
15 Com: ~Em not very good with sympathy~  
16 Doc: Well I [wont(.) I wont] be nice  
17 Com: ~[Yeah yeah]~  
18 Com: ~That's it yeah (.) yeah so~  
19 ((doctor leans back in chair))  
20 Doc: And who've you got for **s**upport  
21 (0.3)  
22 Com: ~Hmm (.) my mum my sister, (0.8) work~  
23 (0.3)  
END