

# CARDIOLOGY 2025

I HAVE CARED FOR THIS  
CHILD BUT IT DIDN'T TURN  
OUT WELL:  
PHYSICIAN'S PERSPECTIVE

Meryl S. Cohen, MD, MS Ed  
Professor of Pediatrics  
University of Pennsylvania  
School of Medicine



# HOPE. HEAL. LEARN.



# NO CONFLICTS OR DISCLOSURES

# PHYSICIAN GRIEF

- Patient family grief is expected
- Practitioner grief is controversial
  - During interactions with families, we need to stay composed
  - Often feel that we need “permission” to grieve
  - Grief is particularly difficult in pediatric care
  - Can make one question one’s personal mission
- Complicating factors
  - Diagnostic uncertainty
  - Medical complexity
  - If family goals do not align with the practitioners understanding of child’s best interest

# PHYSICIAN GRIEF

- Personal attachment to family and child
- Can feel helpless when we can't fix the problem
- Can develop compassion fatigue when there are multiple episodes (ICU)
- Feelings of guilt
- Insufficient support for caregivers
- Can affect future decision-making for other patients

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There is no formula for how you grieve...

Hey Dr Cohen, I was wondering if you can write me a script for medical marijuana.

No Z, I will not do that. You are on a lot of medications so you might have side effects from marijuana.

Hey Dr Cohen, what condoms are the best to buy?

Hey Z, all are safe to use but remember to use them EVERY TIME and I am glad to hear that you are being safe!

SHARE YOUR  
GRIEF W/COLLEAGUES

**LEARN  
FROM YOUR  
MISTAKES**

Assess the process,  
not the outcome

TRY TO FORGIVE  
YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Be prepared for the  
unexpected

**STRONG PARTNERSHIP  
WITH PATIENT FAMILIES**

BE HONEST ABOUT  
AND SHARE  
YOUR ERRORS





The good physician treats the disease; the great physician treats the patient who has the disease.

~ William Osler

We can't fix everything

But we should still try...

**HOPE. HEAL. LEARN.**