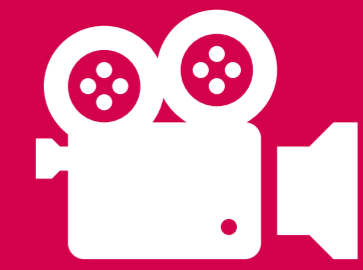


Returning to Work After the Death of a Baby or Child – Video for Supporting Healthcare Staff

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AIM

The death of a baby or child at any age or gestation is devastating [1].

Returning to work in health care following the death of a baby or child can be hugely challenging due to emotions and feelings triggered by being back in a healthcare environment [2].

Aim of this project is to highlight these challenges and the support health care professionals may need when returning to work after the death of a child or baby.

METHOD

A collaborative multi-professional approach was used to produce a short audio-visual recording.

Included two health professionals with lived experience of returning to work in a health care environment after the death of a baby, a child mortality nurse, and a clinical psychologist.



RESULTS

Increased awareness of support needs of bereaved staff returning to work after the death of a baby or child both within and outside the organisation

Video shared widely across both the NHS and academic institutions

New opportunities arisen to collaborate with other organisations/ researchers to contribute to future projects/ development of new resources

Cathartic for professionals involved as provided opportunity to support others who find themselves in this situation whilst recognising their lived experiences

Cascading effect as lots of positive feedback...



“ Thank you for your video and information about this subject - beautifully constructed - moving but also very supportive. Thanks again for all your hard work on this important topic - it's an amazing piece of work. ”

“ I wanted to extend my thanks to you all for developing guidance to support staff returning to work following the death of a child. As someone who has experienced this loss, many of the quotes in the guidance resonated with me and I am thankful to see this guidance introduced at the Trust. ”

“ This video is so needed ”

CONCLUSIONS

This project has highlighted the importance of supporting health care professionals returning to work after the loss of a baby or child and demonstrates the need for further research and resources to be focused on this important topic [1-2].

REFERENCES

[1] Kersting & Wagner (2012) Complicated grief after perinatal loss. Available at: <https://doi-org.libezproxy.open.ac.uk/10.31887%2FDCNS.2012.14.2%2Fkersting>

[2] Musodza et al. (2023) Experiences of Maternity Healthcare Professionals Returning to Work Following a Personal Perinatal Loss: A Scoping Review of the Literature. Available at: [10.1177/0030222821991312](https://doi.org/10.1177/0030222821991312)

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Speech Bubble adapted from Microsoft 365 stock images. Team image taken from Microsoft 365 stock images.