



# Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics

A Journal of Qualitative Research

## Call for Stories

### Healthcare after a Near-Death Experience

*Symposium Editors to be determined*

*Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics* will publish a collection of personal stories from individuals who have had a near-death experience (NDE) following resuscitation in a medical or surgical setting. Studies have found that 10 – 20% of persons who are resuscitated after nearly dying have an out-of-body experience accompanied by a variety of perceptions such as traveling through a tunnel of light, feeling loved, or being received by deceased loved ones. Most NDEs are highly positive experiences, but a percentage are described as hellish, which can be traumatizing to patients. Few patients spontaneously report these experiences to their healthcare providers. While some patients are positively changed by the experience, others struggle with who to tell and how to make sense of the experience. NDEs are reported by patients of all ages, including children.

We want true, personal stories from people who have had an NDE following resuscitation. We aim to explore how healthcare workers and loved ones can best support patients following an NDE. We are also receptive to stories from parents of children who have experienced an NDE. **Please share this invitation and guide sheet with appropriate individuals.**

In writing your story, please consider these questions:

- How would you describe your NDE? How do you make sense of it?
- Did you tell any healthcare workers about your NDE? If so, how did they respond? What was helpful? What was unhelpful?
- Who else did you discuss the experience with, and how did they react?
- What advice do you have for individuals who experience an NDE, or for family members and healthcare workers who want to support someone who had an NDE?

You do not need to address each of these questions—write on the issues that you think are most important to share with others. If you are not a writer, tell your story in your own words and our editorial staff will help you.

**If you are interested in submitting a story, we ask you first to submit a 300-word proposal—** a short description of the story you want to tell. Inquiries or proposals should be sent to the editorial office via email: [narrativebioethics@gmail.com](mailto:narrativebioethics@gmail.com). We will give preference to story proposals received by **May 15, 2019**. If your story is invited, we will ask you to submit it within 6 weeks of the invitation. Final stories are 4 – 10 double-spaced pages or 800 – 2000 words.

For more information about the journal *Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics*, the guidelines for authors, and privacy policies, visit our webpage at: <http://nibjournal.org/submit/guidelines/>

We plan to publish 12 stories on this topic in our print edition; additional stories may be published as online-only supplemental material. We also publish 3 – 4 commentary articles that discuss the stories that are published in the journal. To see a finished symposium, please visit *Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics'* page on [Project MUSE](#) and click on the unlocked, open-access issue.

*Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics* is indexed in PubMed, MEDLINE, Scopus, Web of Science, and PhilPapers. The journal is published by the Johns Hopkins University Press and is available in print and electronically to over 1,600 institutional subscribers via Project MUSE.