The Medical "Standard of Care" Perspective Toward Rare Disease and Terminal Illness

Presenter: Sarita Edwards, BHSc

Abstract: The medical perspective sets the standard of care model for all medical diagnoses; even those lacking a continuation of research to further explore possible alternative outcomes. What happens when a medical diagnosis falls within the scope of rare disease or terminal illness? Often, due to research inadequacies or inefficiencies toward treatment development, the medical perspective's 'standard of care' model lacks the necessary data to explore alternative solutions. Patients are therefore forced into streamlined medical models created for standard solutions, not individualized care.

Takeaways:

- Standard of care models lack research development as it often relates to rare disease and terminal illness.
- Patients are forced into a 'standard practice' medical mold that may not directly relate to solution options for their medical diagnosis.
- Advancements in research and education can improve the medical perspective toward rare disease and terminal illness.