

# Breaking bad news: A Shakespearean tragedy

**Charlotte Fitzpatrick**  
**Nicky Matthews**  
**Georgina O'Brien**

**Specialist Nurses Organ Donation**  
**NHS Blood and Transplant**



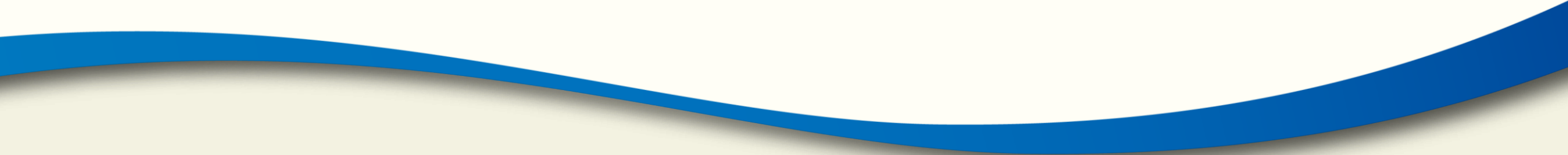
# Breaking Bad News

Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Nicky Matthews and Georgina O'Brien

Specialist Nurses in Organ Donation

# Agenda

- Your experiences
- A model for BBN
- A structured approach video
- BBN demonstration

A thick, blue, wavy line that curves across the top of the slide, separating the header from the main content.

**Bad news has been defined as “any information which adversely and seriously affects an individual’s view of his or her future”**  
*(Baile et al, 2000)*

**Have you been involved in a BBN conversation before?**

**Have you had to break bad news to a relative or patient?**



# Planning

It is important that there is agreement in advance on who will cover each element of the process and where the transition in responsibility will be.



# The Prologue

Ensure that we are all in the same play...

- Ask the family to explain their current understanding
- Consider giving a warning shot





# Act I

Build off what you have been told  
by the family already



# Act II

- Build toward and say the *'telegraphed reveal'* It will likely be a shock to the family, but it should not be a surprise
- Be ready to give more explanation and answer their questions



# Interval

Decouple- we guide the family towards accepting a break and agree to a second conversation to plan steps for end-of-life care.



# Act III

...End of life Care planning can begin



# The Structured Approach





# Thank You Any Questions?

