Creating Word Clouds

There are many free online programs for creating word clouds. Play around with them until you find one that you like. Here are a few examples. Experiment until you find the program that works best for you. Worditout is a simple place to start. Word Clouds has a few additional features including shape.

https://worditout.com/word-cloud/create
https://www.wordclouds.com/

Word clouds can be created at any point in an admission. They can be posted at the bedside and used to communicate the patient's individuality. Patient's able to participate can contribute to the development of the word cloud. The word cloud becomes a memento if there is a transition to End-of-Life care.

Word clouds can also be created when end-of-life care transition occurs. Developing a word list a day or two before the transition will usually provide richer content.

Creating a Word Cloud:

1. Begin by creating a list of words that represent the individual child or adult patient's personality, hobbies, likes and dislikes and important people or pets.

   Type up your list with a hard return separating each word. Do not use bullets. Save the file in your P drive in a folder called "Confidential Patient Information". Saving ensures that you don't lose your content before finishing your word cloud. The list can be deleted once you have finished your cloud.

   You will copy your list and paste it into the word cloud program. Most programs handle single words versus strings of words best. The words in a string can get separated and lose their context. You can try to create a string by using underscore (_) between words to keep them together (e.g. Aunt_Jean).

   LIST EXAMPLE:
   Mom
   Dad
   Kelly
   Samantha
   Grandma
   Grandpa
   Duke
   Tabby
   Aunt_Jean
   Barry
   Michael
   Hockey
   Leafs
   Skateboard
   Funny
   Happy
   Video_Games
   Hiking
   Camping
   Bicyclist
   Dedicated
   Team
   Family
   Horses
   Environmentalist
   Guitar
   Fishing
   Mountains
   Pizza

The list can be created by any member of the team. Subsequent team members can add to the list.

Identify people and words from patient and family information. Listen to stories about the patient to identify themes or characteristics. Use information collected on "About Me" poster or patient story boards. Values assessment tools if available can also be a valuable source of information.

Take care to ensure that all important people are listed and double check this list when reviewing your finished word cloud. All word clouds have a maximum number of characters and words can be randomly deleted by the program. Double check to avoid accidental exclusion of significant individuals.

2. Once you have your word list ready, open up your word cloud program.

3. Highlight your word list and copy it. Paste it into the word cloud program. You may need to find the option for importing words versus typing them into the program.

4. Play around with the options within the program. Depending on the program, this may include options for changing the colors, font, background shape and letter sizing.

5. When ready, produce your word cloud. You can make changes and regenerate your word cloud until it is the way you want it to look.

6. Save the file as a jpg file. Print on a color printer. You can also give a copy to the family.