Social distancing and visitor restrictions during the COVID pandemic place substantial strain on clinicians and families caring for people who are ill and dying in a hospital or long-term care setting. These experiences can be isolating and distressing for clinicians and families who are grieving.

Storytelling: Previous research demonstrates that telling the story about one’s experience helping to care for a cherished person who died in a hospital can improve the quality of life for the person who is grieving. This StoryListening Project is based upon this previous work.

Research Questions: This study focuses on evaluating the acceptability of the TeleVideo StoryListening visit and understanding the aspects of the storytelling experience that are most beneficial to quality-of-life.

Who can participate? Families, friends or clinicians of any person who died in a hospital, nursing home or other healthcare facility in Vermont or the Adirondack region of New York during the COVID pandemic.

If you choose to participate in this study, you would:
1) Complete a brief telephone interview consisting of 18 short questions
2) Schedule and complete a recorded televideo StoryListening visit with a research story listener. The StoryListening visit can be as long or as short as you wish it to be. Story listeners will be End-of-Life Doulas who completed training at the University of Vermont. Doulas are nonmedical caregivers who are trained to be neutral and interested listeners at times of intensity, such as death and grief. During this conversation, you will be welcomed to share your experience during the hours, days or weeks before your loved one / patient died and also about your experience since that time. The doula has a number of guiding questions to help you talk about your experience, but you do not need to use or follow those questions—you decide on the direction and depth of the story you wish to tell. You will be provided with a copy of the recorded story audio for you to do with as you please.
3) Complete a brief telephone interview in two weeks consisting of 15 short questions

Participating in this study is completely voluntary and will not interfere with any sources of grief support or medical care that you choose to pursue.

Would participation cost me anything? No. Neither you nor your insurance company would be billed for any services. You will receive a pair of earbuds to use during the story listening visit, and you will be able to keep these after your study participation is over.

For more information, please contact the StoryListening Project study coordinator either by email or telephone:

email: susanna.pratt@med.uvm.edu
tel: 623-293-8377
are. List or summarize key points here about what you do. And here’s one more tip for the road…

You might want to mention a few of your most impressive clients here:

1. Big, important company
2. Really well-known company
3. Very impressive company