

**SPIRITUALITY IN
CANCER & PALLIATIVE CARE**

The Clinical Social Work Spiritual Care Lecture Series

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At City of Hope National Medical Center (COH), a ***Clinical Social Work Spiritual Care Lecture Series (Lecture Series)*** was designed with the overall goal of providing training to clinical oncology social workers (CSWs) to develop their skills in identifying and responding to various spiritual care concerns in the cancer and palliative care population. The course taught participants how to assess, intervene, triage and apply basic principles of spiritual care to the patient population and setting.

There were four objectives of the *Lecture Series*: After completing this course, participants would be able to:

1. Observe, describe, and discuss conditions, issues and other factors affecting spiritual health in the cancer and palliative care setting.
2. Demonstrate a familiarity with the 9 common spiritual care subject areas that social workers may encounter while providing care to the target population.
3. Apply critical spiritual care concepts and strategies (triage, intervention, patient narratives) to cancer and palliative care patients.
4. Within the context of a changing social work landscape, discuss the interaction between chaplains and social workers in screening and assessing spiritual care concerns in patients.

SECTION I

SPIRITUAL DISTRESS & SUFFERING

~ DISCONNECTION & DISORIENTATION ~

SESSION #1: INTRODUCTION: SPIRITUAL DISTRESS IN CANCER & PALLIATIVE CARE

- SPIRITUAL CARE: Overview of spiritual/religious issues in cancer & palliative care
- INTERVENTION: Overview of ways to screen & Intervene
- 'PATIENT NARRATIVE' – patient vignettes/discussion re: spiritual, religious & existential issues
- TRIAGE: Triage spiritual distress

SESSION #2: SPIRITUAL PAIN & SUFFERING

- SPIRITUAL CARE: Overview of spiritual pain & suffering in cancer & palliative care
- INTERVENTION: Overview of ways to screen & Intervene
- 'PATIENT NARRATIVE' – patient vignettes/discussion re: spiritual pain & suffering
- TRIAGE: Triage spiritual distress

SESSION #3: SPIRITUAL HOPELESSNESS & DESPAIR

- SPIRITUAL CARE: Overview of spiritual despair in cancer & palliative care
- INTERVENTION: Overview of ways to screen & Intervene
- 'PATIENT NARRATIVE' – patient vignettes/discussion re: spiritual despair
- TRIAGE: Triage spiritual distress

SESSION #4: SPIRITUAL ISOLATION & ABANDONMENT

- SPIRITUAL CARE: Overview of spiritual isolation in cancer & palliative care
- INTERVENTION: Overview of ways to screen & Intervene
- 'PATIENT NARRATIVE' – patient vignettes/discussion re: spiritual isolation
- TRIAGE: Triage spiritual distress

SESSION #5: SPIRITUAL GUILT & SHAME

- SPIRITUAL CARE: Overview of spiritual/religious guilt in cancer & palliative care
- INTERVENTION: Overview of ways to screen & Intervene
- 'PATIENT NARRATIVE' – patient vignettes/discussion re: spiritual/religious guilt
- TRIAGE: Triage spiritual distress

SESSION #6: SPIRITUAL UNCERTAINTY & AMBIVALENCE

- SPIRITUAL CARE: Overview of spiritual ambivalence in cancer & palliative care
- INTERVENTION: Overview of ways to screen & Intervene
- 'PATIENT NARRATIVE' – patient vignettes/discussion re: spiritual ambivalence
- TRIAGE: Triage spiritual distress

SECTION II

SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING

~ RECONNECTION & REORIENTATION ~

SESSION #7: PRESENCE & PEACE

- SPIRITUAL CARE: Overview of spiritual/religious presence in cancer & palliative care
- INTERVENTION: Overview of ways to screen & Intervene
- 'PATIENT NARRATIVE' – patient vignettes/discussion re: spiritual presencing
- TRIAGE: Triage spiritual distress

SESSION #8: FORGIVENESS & RECONCILIATION

- 'PATIENT NARRATIVE' – patient vignettes/discussion re: reconciliation & forgiveness
- SPIRITUAL CARE: Overview of spiritual reconciliation in cancer & palliative care
- INTERVENTION: Overview of ways to screen & Intervene
- TRIAGE: Triage spiritual distress

SESSION #9: GRATITUDE & APPRECIATION

- SPIRITUAL CARE: Overview of spiritual/religious gratitude in cancer & palliative care
- INTERVENTION: Overview of ways to screen & Intervene
- 'PATIENT NARRATIVE' – patient vignettes/discussion re: gratitude & appreciation
- TRIAGE: Triage spiritual distress

SESSION #10: REFLECTIONS ON LESSONS LEARNED

- SPIRITUAL CARE: Summary of spiritual/religious issues in cancer & palliative care
- INTERVENTION: Overview of ways to screen & Intervene
- 'PATIENT NARRATIVE' – Reflections on spirituality in cancer & palliative care
- TRIAGE: Triage spiritual distress