Comprehensive Palliative Care Skills for Medical Students

This Learning Pathway contains comprehensive clinical skills training to help medical students understand the needs of patients with serious illness and how palliative care can help. Topics include an introduction to the principles and practices of palliative care, communication techniques for effective conversations with patients and caregivers, and pain and symptom management. This Pathway contains approximately 6.5 hours of learning activities.

Understanding Palliative Care

Introduction to Palliative Care for Health Professionals
An introduction to palliative care, how it is delivered, its impact on quality of life, and the growing population of patients who need it.

Communicating Effectively During Serious Illness

Delivering Serious News
Communicating serious clinical news to patients and families.

Discussing Prognosis
How to discuss patient prognosis in a manner that is sensitive, clear, and supportive.

Clarifying Goals of Care
Strategies for eliciting patient goals and preferences to inform treatment decisions.

Conducting a Family Meeting
Communication techniques for an effective family meeting.

Advance Care Planning Conversations
How to initiate and conduct conversations about advance care planning.

Center to Advance Palliative Care | capc.org/training/learning-pathways/
Goals of Care Conversation: Role Play
In this video, Kacey Boyle, RN, MSPC, leads us through an example of a goals of care conversation between a clinician and a patient.

“I Don’t See Color” Means You Don’t See Me
Why clinicians must unlearn well-intentioned but ultimately harmful conventions about race and ethnicity—and strategies to move forward.

Managing Pain and Symptoms

Course 1: Comprehensive Pain Assessment
Conducting a comprehensive pain assessment to guide safe and effective treatment.

Anxiety in Patients with Serious Illness
Take this online course to learn evidence-based strategies to identify and treat anxiety in patients with a serious illness.

Preventing Avoidable Crises

Reducing Risks for Older Adults
This course provides context and best practices for identifying older adults at risk for poor outcomes, including falls, delirium, and caregiving challenges.

A Delirium Whodunit: Understanding the Causes of Delirium
This interactive whodunit game challenges learners to conduct a thorough clinical investigation of a patient with delirium to diagnose the cause(s).

Deprescribing Escape Room: Reducing Medication-Related Harm
This interactive escape room game challenges learners to conduct a thorough assessment of a patient whose multiple medications may be causing adverse effects, and determine which one(s) are candidates for deprescribing.

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