

# Foundational Skills for All Chaplains

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This Learning Pathway contains a comprehensive set of training and tools to help board-certified chaplains address the unique needs of patients and families living with serious illness. Education topics include assessing patient needs and concerns, understanding patients' goals for care, addressing the suffering caused by symptom burden, and helping patients to avoid crises and plan for the future.

## **Assess the Needs and Concerns of Patients**

### **Introduction to Palliative Care**

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

### **Spiritual Screening Tool**

Assessment for suffering, distress, disconnection, or spiritual pain. Supportive Care Coalition.

### **Zarit Burden Interview (ZBI-12)**

Self-reported caregiver assessment.

## **Strengthen the Clinician-Patient Relationship and Understand Care Goals**

### **Hoping for a Miracle? Chaplain Roles with Patients, Families and the Interdisciplinary Team**

Talk given by Denise Hess, MDiv, BCC-PCHAC (Executive director of the Supportive Care Coalition) for the Association for Professional Chaplains.

### **Unconscious Bias: What It Is, How It Influences Health Care, and What You Can Do About It**

Defines unconscious bias and how it influences patient care, and provides ways to reduce the impact of unconscious bias on care delivery.

### **Talking with Patients About Hospice**

This resource lists step-wise tips to foster comfortable, productive dialogue for 'the hospice conversation'.

### **REMAP**

Structured VitalTalk conversation map for late goals of care conversations.

## **Manage Pain and Symptoms**

### **Course 1: Pain and its Impact on Our Patients**

Learn to define and characterize pain, recognize the prevalence of pain, understand disparities in pain management based on race, ethnicity, and gender.

### **Course 2: How to Perform a Comprehensive Pain Assessment**

Learn the components of a comprehensive pain assessment and its importance in safe and effective pain management.

### **Course 3: Matching Treatment to Pain Type**

Gain an overview of pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic pain treatments, including risks and benefits, and learn how to match the analgesic to pain type.

### **Course 8: Problems with Opioid Prescribing: Is it an Opioid Use Disorder?**

Learn how to identify and diagnose opioid use disorder (OUD) and practice communicating with patients about OUD and pain management.

## **Communication Skills for Serious Illness**

### **Delivering Serious News to Patients and Caregivers**

Learn best practices for having patient-centered conversations about a serious illness diagnosis. These discussions are the foundation of building a trusting clinician-patient relationship.

### **Leading Goals of Care Conversations**

Learn best practices for building trust, eliciting patient values, and having patient-centered conversations about goals of care.

### **Care Planning Conversations**

Learn techniques to help patients and their caregivers plan for the future, both during the early stages of a serious illness and as a disease progresses.

## **Prevent Crises and Plan Ahead**

### **Coordinating Care and Planning Ahead**

Guidance for all clinicians on improving communication and ensuring smooth transitions of care for patients living with serious illness.

### **FindHelp.org**

National database of community services - enter a zip code and locate assistance with food, housing, health services, care needs, and other resources.

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