

# Palliative Care Social Worker Onboarding Curriculum

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This Learning Pathway contains recommended clinical training for new social workers on the specialty palliative care team.

## **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.

## **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.

## **Communicating Prognosis to Patients and Caregivers**

Learn how to effectively discuss prognosis with patients and their caregivers to ensure understanding and set the context for decision-making.

## **Leading Goals of Care Conversations**

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

## **Conducting Effective Patient and Caregiver Meetings**

Learn to effectively lead conversations that address a range of concerns and emotions to help patients and caregivers become aligned around the patient's goals.

## **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.

## **Safe and Age-Friendly Care 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.

## **Supporting the Caregivers of People with Serious Illness**

This course offers tools and guidance for assessing and addressing the needs of caregivers of people with serious illness.

## **Coordinating Care and Planning Ahead**

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

## **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 6: Creating a Pain Treatment Plan and Monitoring Effectiveness**

Learn to develop a pain treatment plan with realistic goals and proper documentation, and implement universal precautions to help with the risk of opioid use disorder.

## **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.

## **Anxiety**

After completing this course, learners will be equipped with evidence-based strategies to identify and treat anxiety in patients living with a serious illness.

## **Depression**

After completing this course, learners will have the tools to accurately identify and treat depression in patients living with a serious illness.

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