

# Social Work Serious Illness Designation: Foundational Skills

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This Learning Pathway provides comprehensive online education in social work practices to improve quality of life for patients living with a serious illness. Social workers can use Social Work Serious Illness Designation to demonstrate expertise in working with this patient population.

## **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.

### **PHQ-4 Validated Screening Tool for Anxiety and Depression**

Brief (4-question) screening tool for anxiety and depression.

### **Psychosocial Assessment for Patients with Serious Illness**

Assessment questions to help nurses understand the impact of serious illness on a patient's relationships, social and spiritual supports, financial stability, and trust in the health care system. Fast Facts, April 2020

### **Social Needs Screen**

Assessment tool and resource list to address social risk factors.

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

Self-reported caregiver assessment.

### **CAPC Palliative Care Referral Criteria**

Checklist of triggers for referral to a specialty palliative care team.

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

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

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

## **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'.

## **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.

## **Cognitive Assessment Tools**

Recommended validated cognitive assessment tools.

## **Predicting and Minimizing Risks and Helping Patients Plan Ahead**

### **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.

## Supporting Patients with Serious Illness to Plan Ahead

Considerations for clinicians, patients, and families upon diagnosis, including advance care planning, personal care needs, legal and financial planning, work and retirement planning, and prevention of common medical risks.

## 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.

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