Care of the Dying Patient: Spiritual Care Assessment

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Chaplain

LifePath Hospice and Palliative Care
Spirituality

“The propensity to make meaning through a sense of relatedness to dimensions that transcend the self in such a way that empowers and does not devalue”

“That element or quality in people’s lives that permeates their entire being, unifying and yet transcending the physiological and psychosocial”
SPIRITUAL CARE

Spiritual Needs Assessment

Spiritual Support Desired

Spiritual Support Provided by:
- IDT members
- Volunteers

Spiritual Support includes:
- Prayer
- Scripture Reading
- Devotional materials
- Active listening
- Support of Rituals & Traditions
- Contacting Local Clergy

No Spiritual Needs Identified

Spiritual Intervention Desired

Spiritual Intervention Provided by:
- Local Clergy
- LPH Chaplain

Spiritual Intervention Involves:
- Theological Discussion
- Scriptural Interpretation
- Sacramental Functions
- Memorial / Funeral Services Planning
Definition of Terms: Religious

- “A more narrow concept (than spirituality) that refers to codified beliefs about the meaning of the universe and its expression in myth and practices”

- “An organized set of beliefs and the practices expressing or representing those beliefs”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spiritual Component</th>
<th>Signs of Spiritual Problems</th>
<th>Signs of Spiritual Health</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. A sense of meaning and purpose in life</td>
<td>Expresses no reason to live</td>
<td>Expresses living life in accordance to value system</td>
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<td>Questions meaning of suffering &amp; death</td>
<td>Expresses contentment with life</td>
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<td>Jokes about life after death</td>
<td>Expresses hope in the future, values innerself more than physical self</td>
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<td>Expresses fear of loss of control</td>
<td>Aware of limitations and looks for creative solutions</td>
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### Spiritual Aspects (continued)

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<td>II. A means of forgiveness</td>
<td>Expresses guilt feelings</td>
<td>Expresses feelings of forgiveness.</td>
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<tr>
<td>III. A source of love and relatedness</td>
<td>Expresses anger with God/self/Others</td>
<td>Expresses a desire for religious rituals</td>
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<td>Expresses feelings of a loss of faith on God</td>
<td>Expresses a feeling of being loved by God/others</td>
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<td>Expresses fear of dependence</td>
<td>Seeks the good of others</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Demonstrates boredom during illness</td>
<td>Trusts God/others with outcome</td>
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Care of the Dying Patient

Spiritual Aspects

Guidelines for spiritual/Religious Care:

- **Aware:** What does the patient/family believe?
- **Ask:** What would be helpful? Do you have a church affiliation?
- **Growth:** What would help you/What would bring you peace? Hope?
- **Avoid:** Am I forcing my beliefs/rituals on the patient? Am I placing medical practice above spiritual/religious needs?
People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered:

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, People may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives:

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies:

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you:

Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight:

Build anyway.
If you find serenity and happiness,
they may be jealous:
Be happy anyway.

The good you do today,
People will often forget tomorrow:
Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have,
and it may never be enough:
Give the world the best you’ve got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis,
it is between you and God;
it was never between you and them anyway.

-Mother Theresa-