

## **Palliative Care: A Spiritual Care Providers Perspective**

Often referred to as Chaplains, their role in the care of patients and their loved ones is often much broader than many people think. Professional Chaplains are of any faith and often go through many years of education and training specifically for this specialized work. Research informed care that is focused on meaning, purpose, hope, and relationships with the Holy, self, and others is the top priority.

Spiritual care is given to all, not just those of faith or who are religious. Prayer, for example, can be a comforting thing for some but isn't for all. Discussions with a chaplain may involve deep religious or faith needs, but may involve honest, open, and accepting discussions of difficult questions, fears, and spiritual distress.

Spiritual care seeks to enhance and engage existing spiritual/religious resources that make living with illness more joyful. Equally, spiritual care intentionally assesses and addresses fears and concerns that cause spiritual distress that prevents living life as wonderfully and beautifully as possible. It is the spiritual care provider's joy to journey with each patient and their loved ones uniquely and creatively.

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