Evaluating Chaplain Chart Notes

Essential Elements (of an elegant charting note)

From reading the note how well can you
- Get a mental picture of the pt. as a human being?
- Identify spiritual needs of the patient, and any significant strengths and resources
- Know how the patient related to the chaplain
- Catch any attitudes of the patient about her/his condition
- Recognize efforts of the chaplain to care for this human spirit
- Appreciate what the chaplain intends to do for the patient after the conversation

Some charting taboos

- Excess verbiage
- Neat jargon (chaplain focused)
- Unnecessary rationalizations, excuses
- Pedantic over-explaining
- Superfluous self-reference
- Annoying redundancy
- Subtle image enhancement, (justifications for your worth)
- Critique of other professionals’ care
Slide 2

01 owner, 4/10/2007
**Sample Chaplain Notes**

- Patient does not seem to speak or understand English therefore unable to provide full spiritual assessment. Said prayer softly at bedside.
- Patient appears not interested in praying, requesting more information about living wills. Will contact nursing staff.
- Patient does not appear religious, seems very agitated. Contacted nursing staff to address patient’s agitation.
- Patient requested to talk to someone about “putting him out of his misery” – will notify nursing staff of patient’s concern. Gave patient booklet to read on “finding spiritual peace”.

**Spiritual care notes are:**

- Human to Human (Intersubjective)
- Earthy (vs. tidy, neat, proper, correct)
- Stark, Striking, Interesting, colorful, punchy, pithy
- Quote Illustrated (for concreteness)
- Intuitive (blended with good sense)
- **Concise**
- Mostly devoid of self reference

**Patient Encounter: Story of Mr. D**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chaplain Assessment</th>
<th>Physician Report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Pt appears quite disturbed and declining my invitation to offer a prayer. No need for further visit at this time.”</td>
<td>Patient’s words: “I need to tell someone this before I die…I need to get these words out, they have been like an albatross around my neck for my entire life”!</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHART SEGMENT</th>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B – BASIC DATA</td>
<td>TITLE / DATE / TIME</td>
<td>SIGNATURE / IDENTITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I – INTRODUCTION # 1</td>
<td>Can you tell why the chaplain saw this patient?</td>
<td>1-2-3-4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I – INTRODUCTION # 2</td>
<td>Can you tell how the patient related to the chaplain?</td>
<td>1-2-3-4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A – ASSESSMENT # 1</td>
<td>How specifically and fully can you identify the chaplain’s impressions of the patient’s primary concerns and major sources of support?</td>
<td>1-2-3-4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A – ASSESSMENT # 2</td>
<td>Evaluate the chaplain’s comments on the arena of this patient’s experience of faith community (Church, religion) and relationship to God (Higher Power, YHWH, ALLAH)</td>
<td>1-2-3-4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M – MINISTRY</td>
<td>How well can you identify what the chaplain did to be of help to the healing of this patient?</td>
<td>1-2-3-4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P – PLAN</td>
<td>Evaluate the chaplain’s comment on what he/she intends to do in response to this pastoral conversation.</td>
<td>1-2-3-4-5</td>
</tr>
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</table>
JACHO Ready
Spiritual Assessment Form

What are the needs?
What did we provide?
What is the plan of care?

We Look
With Uncertainty

We look with uncertainty beyond the old choices for clear-cut answers to a softer, more permeable aliveness which is every moment at the brink of death; for something new is being born in us if we but let it.

We stand at a new doorway, awaiting that which comes... daring to be human creatures, vulnerable to the beauty of existence. Learning to love.

--Anne Hillman