

4/10/17

Chaplain Assessment of Explicit Spiritual Concerns of Patients in Palliative Care*

Template v8.1

	DESCRIPTIONS	SCORE
Need for meaning in the face of suffering,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The patient is having difficulty coming to terms with changes in things that gave meaning to life (e.g., grief related to key relationships, illness, frailty, dependency.)² (The focus here is on coming to terms with illness, loss, diminishment. If the issue is about the meaning of their life then score under Legacy.) 	
Need for Integrity, a Legacy, Generativity¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The patient questions the meaning of their life; whether the life they have lived has meaning. Patient has painful regret about some or all of life they have lived (If the regret is about a relationship where reconciliation is possible it is OK to score this concern here as well as under Concern about Family.) The patient questions whether they have made a positive contribution to loved ones, others, or society. The patient has tasks they must complete before they are ready to die (If the tasks are interpersonal, score under Concerns about Family and/or Significant Other.) Reminiscing about their life is painful for the patient. Patient is distressed about having lived an imperfect life. (If the regret, conflict or discomfort focuses on current illness code under Need for Meaning in the Face of Suffering.) 	
Concerns about relationships: family and/or significant others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The patient has unfinished business with significant others (e.g., need to overcome estrangement, need to express forgiveness, need for reconciliation; unfulfilled expectations about others.) (Regrets about relationships where reconciliation is unlikely should only be scored under Legacy). The patient has concerns about their family's ability to cope without them. The patient has concern that they are a burden to their family. The patient expresses unwanted isolation, loneliness. 	
Concern or Fear about Dying or Death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The patient has concerns about dying: unready for death, impatient for death. The patient is concerned to participate in important events before death; the patient is concerned illness or death will prevent participation in important events. The patient is torn between letting go and fighting on. The patient has uncertainty or fear about life after death (afraid of damnation; concerned about reunion with loved ones.) The patient has fear of pain or of pain in dying. 	

Scoring spiritual concerns: 0 = no evidence of spiritual concern; 0* = no evidence of spiritual concern, further assessment to be sure; 1 = some evidence of spiritual concern; 2 = substantial evidence of spiritual concern; 3 = evidence of severe spiritual concerns

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Issues Related to Making Decisions About Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The patient needs assistance with values-based advance care planning. • The patient is confused or distressed about end-of-life treatment. • The patient has not expressed wishes about end-of-life treatment 	
Religious/Spiritual Struggle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The patient wonders whether they are being abandoned or punished by God. • The patient is concerned about God’s judgment, forgiveness, and/or love. • The patient questions God’s love for them. • The patient feel God is not answering their prayers (e.g. asking to die soon.) • The patient expresses anger with God. • The patient is alienated from formerly meaningful connections with religious institutions or leaders. 	
Other Dimensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The patient identifies a need for assistance to perform important rituals, religious or otherwise. • Other spiritual concerns. 	

^aThis assessment focuses on the patient as an individual and is not meant to aid in assessment of a family or a comprehensive assessment of interpersonal issues that are sometimes the focus of attention for chaplains working in palliative care.

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