



Spirituality and the End of Life: Is There a Connection?

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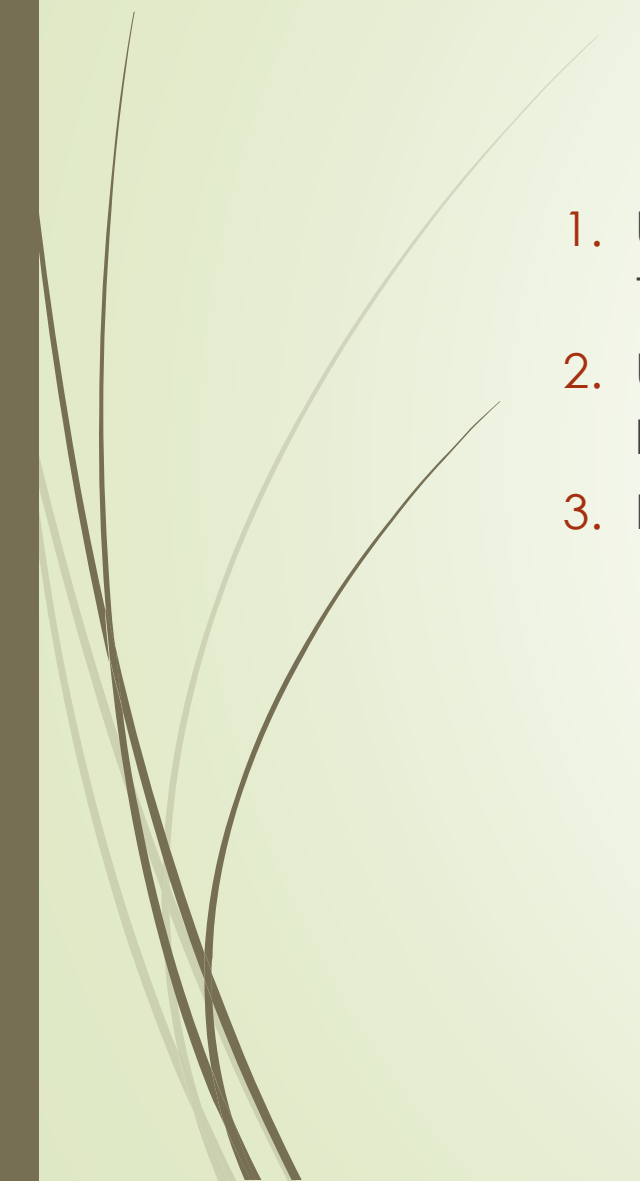
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Learning Objectives

1. Understand the importance of a spiritual assessment to those who are at the end of life.
 2. Understand how quality of life can improve when spiritual care has been provided.
 3. Have an understanding of who can provide spiritual care.
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Introduction



➤ Why THIS topic?

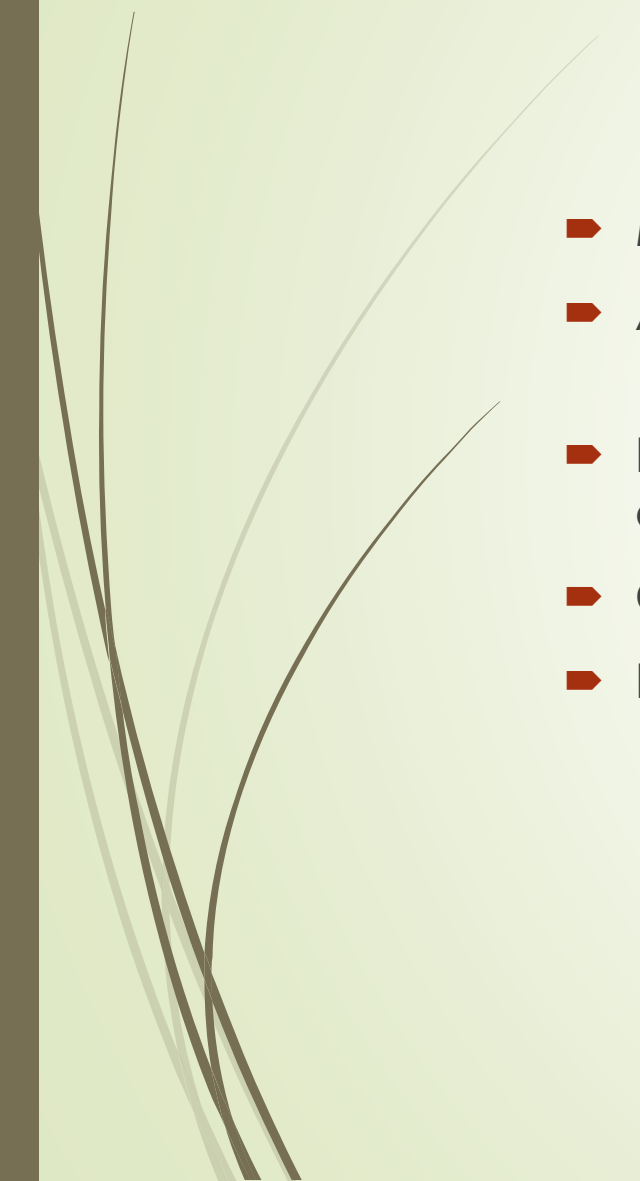


What is Spirituality?

- ▶ There is a lack of a clear definition of spirituality
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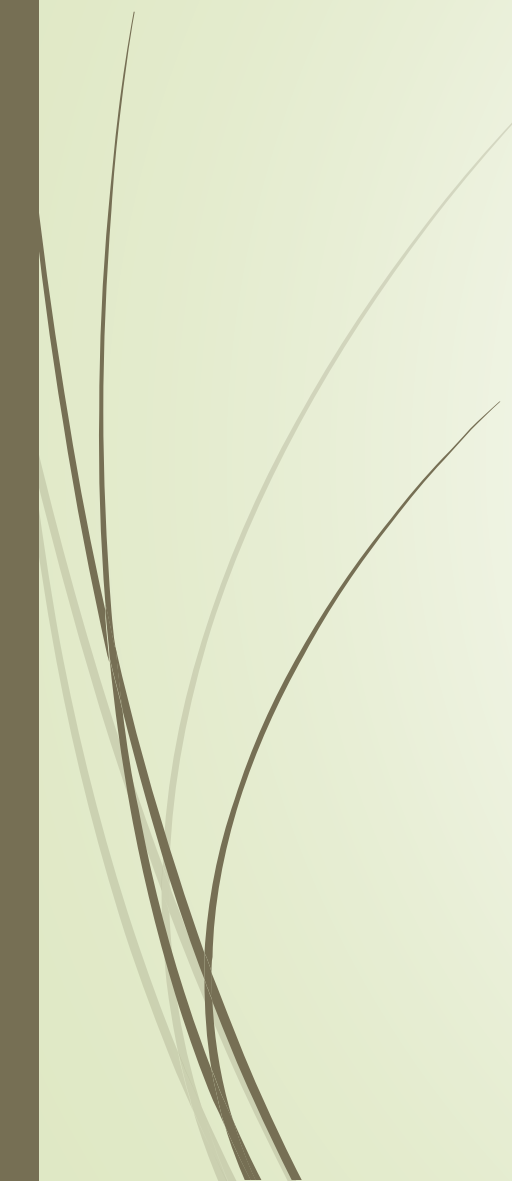


Importance of Spiritual Care

- Meets unmet needs (Francoeur et al, 2016)
 - Allows for patients to talk about their purpose in life and any regrets (Balboni et al, 2007; Balboni et al, 2018)
 - Helps patients become knowledgeable about end of life options (Balboni et al, 2018)
 - Can help with pain management (Siddall et al, 2015)
 - Provides a way of coping (Alcorn et al, 2010)
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Why Address Spiritual Needs?

- Improved quality of life (Balboni et al., 2007)
 - Provides hope for a miracle (Balboni et al., 2007)
 - Reduces depression and anxiety (Sidell, Lovell, & MacLeod, 2015)
 - Greater appreciation for life (Alcorn et al., 2010)
 - Helps you stay positive (Hampton, Hollis, Lloyd, Taylor, & McMillan, 2016)
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How is Spiritual Care Addressed?

- ▶ Creating a safe space (Francoeur et al 2016) Spiritual Care provides a safe, nonjudgmental place to process: religious questions, regrets, unmet needs.
 - ▶ Spiritual Care in engagement – developing the relationship in order to be invited into a personal/private area of life.
 - ▶ Assessing grief response
 - ▶ Assessing patients' value of spirituality.
 - ▶ Listen, elaborate, ask permission
- ▶ Assessing spiritual, religious, existential questions with dignity and respect.

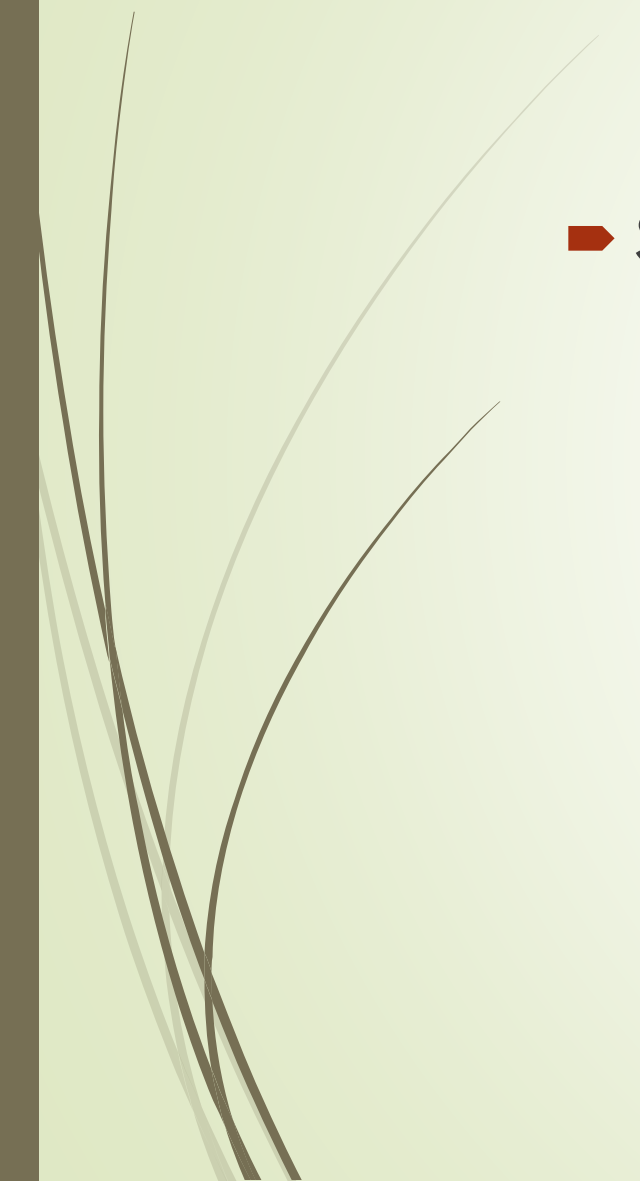


How is Spiritual Care Addressed?

- Biopsychospiritual Assessment (Siddall et al, 2005)
 - Pain
 - Spiritual factors
 - Environmental factors
 - Social factors
 - Religious and spiritual questions




How is Spiritual Care Addressed?

- ▶ Spiritual Care as intervention
 - ▶ Spiritual assessments – tools
 - ▶ Strengths based
 - ▶ Relational implications
 - ▶ Ethical implications
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Who Provides Spiritual Care at the End-of-Life?

- Chaplains (Choi, Curlin, & Cox, 2015; Balboni et al., 2007)
 - Medical Team (Balboni et al., 2013)
 - Social Workers (Francoeur, Burke, & Wilson, 2016)
 - Religious Community (Balboni et al., 2007)
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Implications for Social Work Practice

- Social workers need appropriate training (Francoeur, Burke, & Wilson, 2016)
 - to conduct spiritual assessment
 - to be able to integrate spiritual assessment and intervention
 - to “avoid” unintentional harm to clients
 - This training could be part of the social work curriculum for educating students
 - It could also be from continuing education
- Social workers be aware of and need “tools” for ethnically/culturally-safe (Fang, Sixsmith, Sinclair & Horst, 2016)
 - Be aware of cultural differences between social worker and client
 - Full utilization of culturally-sensitive models
 - cultural and religious diversity issues



Questions?



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