

# PALLIATIVE CARE CHAPLAINCY COMPETENCIES

## PROFESSIONAL CHAPLAINS HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE ON THE INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM IN DELIVERING QUALITY PALLIATIVE CARE

PALLIATIVE CARE PRACTICE GUIDELINES CALL FOR A BOARD CERTIFIED CHAPLAIN TO BE A MEMBER OF THE HEALTH CARE TEAM.



Source: National Consensus Project for Quality Palliative Care Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care, 3rd edition 2013

### THE 11 PALLIATIVE CARE COMPETENCIES REQUIRED OF A PROFESSIONAL CHAPLAIN ON THE INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM

NOTE: Competencies are the combination of knowledge, skills and attitudes that define what is needed to be effective. Within each competency, there is a progression that defines different levels of expertise: Foundational, Advanced and Expert.

- ✓ Knowledge of Palliative Care
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Counseling Skills
- ✓ Teamwork and Collaboration
- ✓ Spiritual Assessment and Documentation
- ✓ Ethics
- ✓ Delivery of Care and Continuity of Care
- ✓ Cultural Competence, Inclusion, and Marginalized Populations
- ✓ Care for Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Team
- ✓ Continuous Quality Improvement and Research Within Palliative Care
- ✓ Mentoring and Teaching

Source: California State University Institute for Palliative Care & HealthCare Chaplaincy Network

### THE CHAPLAIN CONTRIBUTES TO THE INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM BY:

Increasing likelihood of attending to the whole person when addressing patient quality of life.

Provides team members with knowledge of the beliefs, values and practices important to the patient.

Ensures integration of spiritual health resources, needs, and recommendations into the treatment plan.

Sources: Adapted from Journal of Health Care Chaplaincy, 2012; Journal of Palliative Medicine, 2009



**“If you are not providing excellent spiritual care, you are not providing palliative care.”**

– Betty Ferrell, PhD, RN, FAAN, FPCN

### 3 LEVELS OF COMPETENCIES PROGRESSIVELY ENHANCE THE PROFESSIONAL CHAPLAIN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PATIENT, TEAM AND ORGANIZATION.

#### FOUNDATIONAL:

*Knowledge, Comprehension, Application* – Understands concepts, engages in critical thinking, and applies them in daily individual work

#### ADVANCED:

*Analysis, Synthesis (in addition to Foundational level)* – Develops new initiatives, applies leadership and interprofessional expertise in a variety of settings, situations, and teams; mentors and teaches as appropriate Foundational level practitioners

#### EXPERT:

*Evaluation (In addition to Advanced level)* – Develops and assesses programs, predicts outcomes, provides thought level leadership; mentors and teaches Foundational and Advanced level practitioners

Source: California State University Institute for Palliative Care & HealthCare Chaplaincy Network