

# Hospital Medicine

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In the busy day of a hospitalist, complex patients can lead to a backlog in daily rounds, delayed discharges, and inadequate time to communicate with patients and families. Expertise in symptom management and conversations about care priorities allow hospitalists to efficiently address common gaps in care for people living with serious illness, and to identify patients that would benefit from a palliative care referral.

Visit the Society for Hospital Medicine's [Resource Room for Palliative Care](#) to access additional resources for hospitalists.

## Introduction to Palliative Care for Health Professionals

### [Introduction to Palliative Care](#)

An introduction to palliative care, how it is delivered, its impact on quality of life, and the growing population of patients who need it.

## Identify Gaps in Care for Seriously Ill Patients

### [Hospital Medicine Strategies: Caring for the Seriously Ill](#)

The value of skills training for hospitalists.

### [Improving Quality of Care for Seriously Ill Patients: Opportunities for Hospitalists](#)

Journal of Hospital Medicine, December 2017.

### [Update in Hospital Palliative Care: Symptom Management, Communication, Caregiver Outcomes, and Moral Distress](#)

Journal of Hospital Medicine, June 2018.

### [A Model to Improve Hospital-Based Palliative Care: The Palliative Care Redistribution Integrated System Model \(PRISM\)](#)

Journal of Hospital Medicine, December 2018.

### [CAPC Palliative Care Referral Criteria](#)

Checklist of triggers for referral to a specialty palliative care team.

# Improve Communication

## Discussing Serious News

Learn best practices for having patient-centered conversations about a serious illness diagnosis.

## Discussing Prognosis With Patients and Caregivers

Learn how to effectively discuss prognosis with patients and their caregivers.

## Clarifying Patient Goals of Care

Learn best practices for building trust, eliciting patient values, and having patient-centered conversations about goals of care.

## Leading a Patient and Caregiver Meeting

Learn to effectively lead meetings that help patients and caregivers become aligned around the patient's goals.

## Care Planning

Learn techniques to help patients and their caregivers plan for the future, both during the early stages of a serious illness and as a disease progresses.

# Manage Pain and Other Symptoms

## Course 1: Pain and its Impact on Our Patients

Learn to define and characterize pain, recognize the prevalence of pain, understand disparities in pain management based on race, ethnicity, and gender.

## Course 2: How to Perform a Comprehensive Pain Assessment

Learn the components of a comprehensive pain assessment and its importance in safe and effective pain management.

## Course 3: Matching Treatment to Pain Type

Gain an overview of pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic pain treatments, including risks and benefits, and learn how to match the analgesic to pain type.

## Course 4: Prescribing an Opioid

Learn how to decide on an appropriate opioid, route of delivery, and dose, and understand how to prescribe for incident and breakthrough pain.

## Course 5: Practice Prescribing an Opioid

Practice prescribing initial opioid doses for different pain types and characteristics. Learn to adjust dosing as needed to manage pain effectively.

### **Course 6: Creating a Pain Treatment Plan and Monitoring Effectiveness**

Learn to develop a pain treatment plan with realistic goals and proper documentation, and implement universal precautions to help with the risk of opioid use disorder.

### **Course 7: Advanced Opioid Prescribing: Converting to Long-Acting Opioids**

Learn how to convert from short-acting to long-acting opioids, and calculate rescue doses for breakthrough pain using updated equianalgesic tools.

### **Course 8: Problems with Opioid Prescribing: Is it an Opioid Use Disorder?**

Learn how to identify and diagnose opioid use disorder (OUD) and practice communicating with patients about OUD and pain management.

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### **Course 9: Using Buprenorphine for Chronic Pain and Opioid Use Disorder**

Determine which patients may benefit from buprenorphine as a treatment for pain and opioid use disorder (OUD), and learn how to transition patients to buprenorphine.

### **Course 10: Managing IV Opioids**

Learn how to convert patients back and forth from oral to IV opioid formulations, how to prescribe patient-controlled analgesia (PCA), and how to treat acute pain crises.

### **Dyspnea**

After completing this course, learners will have the tools they need to manage dyspnea, including the physical causes of shortness of breath and the emotional impact on the patient.

## **Deliver Quality Care Transitions**

### **Supporting the Family Caregiver: The Burden of Serious Illness**

Assessing and supporting caregivers of people with serious illness.

### **Reducing Risks for Older Adults**

This course provides context and best practices for identifying older adults at risk for poor outcomes, including falls, delirium, and caregiving challenges.

### **Hospital Discharge Checklist**

Practical tool for assuring safe discharge for patients living with serious illness.

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