

Palliative Care Social Worker Onboarding Curriculum

This Learning Pathway contains recommended clinical training for new social workers on the specialty palliative care team.

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.

Delivering Serious News to Patients and Caregivers

Learn best practices for having patient-centered conversations about a serious illness diagnosis. These discussions are the foundation of building a trusting clinician-patient relationship.

Communicating Prognosis to Patients and Caregivers

Learn how to effectively discuss prognosis with patients and their caregivers to ensure understanding and set the context for decision-making.

Leading Goals of Care Conversations

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

Conducting Effective Patient and Caregiver Meetings

Learn to effectively lead conversations that address a range of concerns and emotions to help patients and caregivers become aligned around the patient's goals.

Care Planning Conversations

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.

Safe and Age-Friendly Care 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.

Supporting the Caregivers of People with Serious Illness

This course offers tools and guidance for assessing and addressing the needs of caregivers of people with serious illness.

Coordinating Care and Planning Ahead

Guidance for all clinicians on improving communication and ensuring smooth transitions of care for patients living with serious illness.

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 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 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.

Anxiety

After completing this course, learners will be equipped with evidence-based strategies to identify and treat anxiety in patients living with a serious illness.

Depression

After completing this course, learners will have the tools to accurately identify and treat depression in patients living with a serious illness.

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