

CLINICAL SKILLS ~ 2015 ~ Hospice and Palliative Care Experience

REQUIRED TRAINING: You must complete the following survey prior to your training session.

Interactive Learning Video: https://yalesurvey.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_9zqE1C5wbngty3r

Resources: Before your visit we suggest that you read the following 2 articles:

- 1) Serving Patients Who May Die Soon and Their Families
- 2) Discussing Palliative Care with Patients).

You can access the articles at <http://medicine.yale.edu/palliative/index.aspx>; Go to “student resources” and look under Second year.

Background

As patients with terminal illness move from curative therapies (cure and care) to palliative care (care only), the focus of our medical assessment must shift, placing a greater emphasis on effective and compassionate symptom management. Hospice and palliative care address not only the physical needs of patients, but also the psychosocial and spiritual needs of patients and families as they cope with terminal illness. The hospice approach utilizes an inter-disciplinary team of specialized providers, including physicians, nurses, social workers, chaplains, art therapists, practitioners of complementary therapies and volunteers to provide a comprehensive assessment of a patient’s and family’s end of life needs.

Experience

During this experience, students will observe a hospice or palliative care provider assess the multidimensional needs of a new or continuing care patient and family. Towards this end, students will be divided into groups of typically 3–4 students. Some groups will accompany physician or nurse on an inpatient hospice visit or on a hospice home care visit while other groups will accompany a palliative care specialist on patient visits. The experience will last approximately 2-3 hours. After seeing a patient, you will discuss the experience and the care of patients near the end of life in general with expert palliative care and hospice clinician.

Goals

1. Students will observe an experienced hospice or palliative care clinician interview and evaluate a patient with terminal illness.
2. Students will learn the key elements of assessment of patients at end-of-life, including physical symptoms as well as psychosocial and spiritual aspects of terminal illness.
3. The hospice or palliative care clinician will compare and contrast elements of a history and physical for palliative care versus a diagnostic assessment for patients seeking curative therapies.
4. Students and clinician will have the opportunity to reflect on professional and personal challenges of caring for patients at end-of-life.

Readings

Before your visits, please read 2 papers at <http://medicine.yale.edu/palliative/index.aspx>; Go to “student resources” and look under Second year.

What to Expect

In-Patient Hospice at Connecticut Hospice or Middlesex Hospital

The patients and families you will be meeting are real; they are not staged or pre-screened. They are often in transition, dealing with their own functional decline, or the decline of their family members that prompted admission to the In-Patient facility. Some patients have been fighting cancer or chronic disease for years; others have only recently been diagnosed. As such, the needs of our patients and families are varied and can be unpredictable. We will make an effort to stick to a schedule, outlined below. Our primary commitment, however, is to meet the needs of the patient and families. Students who remain flexible in their expectations will undoubtedly have a valuable experience.

Home Hospice Visits

The unique aspect of Home Care is the opportunity to meet and assess patients and families where they live, on their terms, in the comfort of their homes. This is a special privilege to which we are invited and comes with extra responsibilities. The home environment is even less predictable than in-patient hospice. Pets and small children are common; insect and rodent infestation is not common, but is entirely possible. Although the average home visit lasts 1 hour, crises may arise that require longer periods of time. A flexible schedule is required for students assigned to a home visit. (Independent transportation to and from Hospice to Yale is also required).

The primary (community) physician has an important role in home care, as he or she remains responsible for medications and for directing the overall plan of care. Home care nurses update primary physicians with any changes in the patient’s condition, or as new needs arise that require changes in medications or in the care plan. Learning to respect the input of Hospice Inter-disciplinary team members and to support them in caring for patients at home is an important goal for students accompanying nurses on a home visit.

DIRECTIONS to Assigned Location (You must provide your own transportation):

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL - Hospice and Palliative Care Service

ARRIVE by 1:30 pm

Middlesex Hospital LOCATION: 28 Crescent St. Middletown, CT; Hospice Conference Room, S7

DIRECTIONS: I-95 to I-91 North. Change to Route 9 South toward Cromwell/Middletown. In Middletown, take Exit 13. Continue straight to the intersection with Route 17, South Main Street. At the light, turn right onto South Main Street. Follow South Main Street to the intersection with Crescent Street. Turn right onto Crescent Street. The entrance to the hospital and the Emergency Department are on Crescent Street. Follow signs to Hospital Parking. When you enter go to S7 & meet inside the Hospice Conference Room.

If you get lost or detained, please contact: Kelly Zercie, work phone: 860-358-6100; cell phone: 203-376-6226

CT HOSPICE – Branford, CT

ARRIVE by 1:30 pm

Connecticut Hospice LOCATION: 100 Double Beach Drive, Branford, CT

DIRECTIONS: From New Haven: I-95 to exit 53 (Short Beach) which eventually takes you to a stop light on Route 1. Go right at stop light at end of exit ramp, go under railroad tracks and up to next stop light; stay in the left lane. At the light take a left onto Short Beach Road. Go approximately 2 miles to Double Beach Road, which takes off on the left. Continue straight ahead - a quarter of a mile; the Hospice facility is the large granite building on the left. Go through the gated entry to parking lot.

Go to the reception desk and ask for Mary Fitzgerald, if someone is not already there to greet you.

Note: There may be an opportunity available for some students to go on a home hospice visit.

If you get lost or detained, please contact Mary Fitzgerald at 203-315-7502