

END OF LIFE

LESSON 1 ~ INTRODUCTION

Death can be frightening. This can be especially true for patients in the terminal stages of chronic disease. These patients often wish for a 'good death.' However, they often fear that they will die alone, in pain, abandoned by their caregivers. Clinicians must provide excellent end-of-life care to all dying patients. In this way, clinicians can:

- Help patients have a 'good death'
- Calm the fears of dying patients
- Support the patient's family

After completing this course, you should be able to:

- Distinguish between palliative and curative care
- Identify potential barriers to adequate palliative care, as well as methods for overcoming these barriers
- Recognize the key components of a palliative care consultation, including how to meet patient needs in each key area
- List the needs typically associated with the family members of a dying patient, including clinical best practices for meeting these needs

LESSON 2 ~ CURATIVE VS. PALLIATIVE CARE

After completing this lesson, you should be able to:

- Distinguish between curative and palliative care
- Recognize key features of palliative care
- List benefits of using palliative and curative care together

LESSON 3 ~ BARRIERS TO ADEQUATE PALLIATIVE CARE

After completing this lesson, you should be able to:

- List three key factors that contribute to inadequate end-of-life care for many patients
- Identify best practices for providing adequate end-of-life care

LESSON 4 ~ ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE DYING PATIENT

After completing this lesson, you should be able to:

- List the parts of the palliative care consultation
- Identify the function and goal of each part

LESSON 5 ~ ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE FAMILY

After completing this lesson, you should be able to:

- List the needs of a dying person's family
- Identify clinical best practices that can help meet these needs