



The Evidence-Based Spiritual Care Online Continuing Education Resource for Health Care Professionals — Key Facts

What is the Spiritual Care Association

The Spiritual Care Association (SCA), introduced in April 2016, is the first multidisciplinary, international professional membership association for spiritual care providers that establishes evidence-based quality indicators, scope of practice, and a knowledge base for spiritual care in health care.

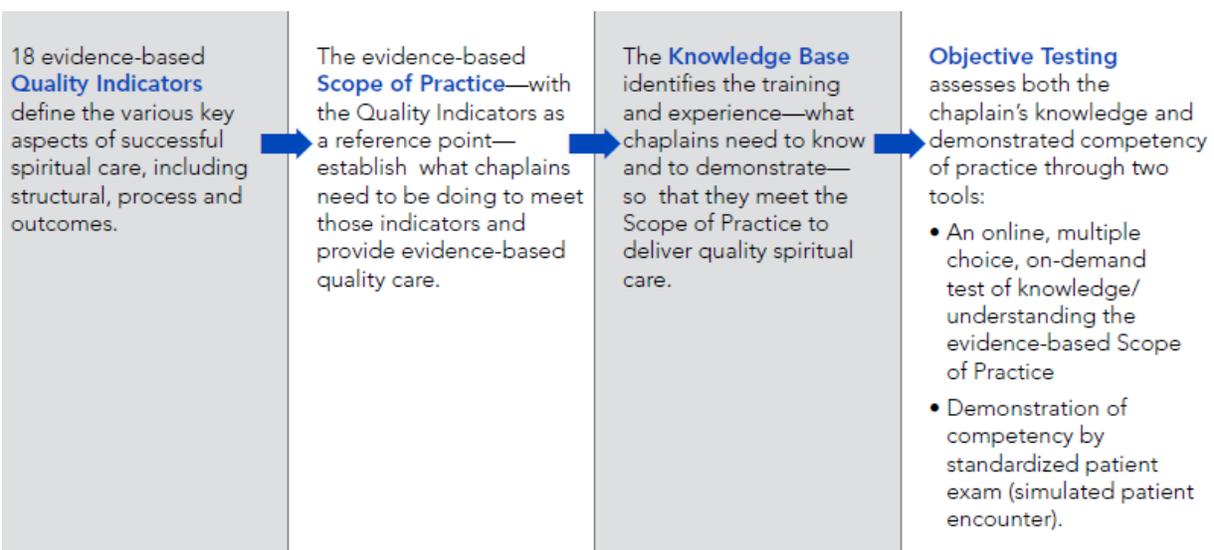
As health care providers emphasize the delivery of positive patient experience, SCA is leading the way to educate, certify, credential and advocate so that more people in need, regardless of religion, beliefs or cultural identification, receive effective spiritual care from the interdisciplinary health care team in all types of institutional and community settings in the U.S. and internationally. SCA is committed to serving its multidisciplinary membership and growing the chaplaincy profession.

The nonprofit SCA is an affiliate of HealthCare Chaplaincy Network™ (HCCN), a health care nonprofit organization founded in 1961 that offers spiritual-related information and resources, and professional chaplaincy services in hospitals, other health care settings, and online.

Cornerstone One of SCA is the First Evidence-Based Quality Indicators and Evidence-Based Scope of Practice for Spiritual Care

As a lead-up to the establishment of SCA and to transform the field, HCCN convened two distinguished, international panels of experts chosen for their demonstrated expertise in medicine, nursing, chaplaincy, palliative care, social work, psychotherapy, research or policy to develop the first evidence-based quality indicators and evidence-based scope of practice for spiritual care. These were released in early 2016 and can be found at www.healthcarechaplaincy.org/research.

Cornerstone Two of SCA is the First Comprehensive Evidence-Based Model to Define, Deliver, Train and Test for the Provision of High-Quality Spiritual Care



Cornerstone Three of SCA is the First Comprehensive Curriculum Incorporating the Evidence-Based Standards

Here is one example of how the evidence-based Quality Indicators build on the evidence-based Scope of Practice result in an aligned curriculum with four courses available in SCA's Online Learning Center:

Quality Indicator 2.A.	"Specialist spiritual care is made available within a time frame appropriate to the nature of the referral."
The Aligned Competency	"The chaplain integrates effective and responsive spiritual care into the organization through policies and procedures, use of evidence-based assessment and documentation processes, and education of the interdisciplinary team about spiritual care."
The Aligned Curriculum	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Building and Maintaining a Chaplaincy Department2. What We Hear and Say: Spiritual Assessment and Documentation3. When Care Is Tough: Supporting the Interdisciplinary Team4. What We Do Matters: Continuous Quality Improvement and Research Within Chaplaincy and Health Care

Cornerstone Four of SCA is the Online Learning Center

- The center uses a state-of-the-art learning management system.
- Each course is written by a subject matter expert.
- The courses are developed for all individuals and organizations committed to the delivery of optimal spiritual care, as a vital component of whole person care and the overall patient experience, including:
 - Health Care Professionals, such as but not limited to:
 - Social Workers
 - Physicians
 - Chaplains
 - Patient Advocates
 - Administrators
 - Volunteers
 - Community Clergy and Religious Leaders

SCA Courses Available Now

Care for All: Cultural Competence, Inclusion, and Vulnerable Populations

Course Author: *The Rev. Sue Wintz, M.Div., BCC*

Cultural competence includes self-awareness and the professional ability to assess, document and provide interventions so that persons' beliefs, values and practices are integrated into their plan of care. This course will also address the needs of vulnerable patient populations, including those who are illiterate, have low health literacy, are intellectually disabled, are homeless, or are incarcerated. **Hours: 25 1 Credit**

More than Listening: Counseling Skills

Course Author: Denise Hess, BCC

Participants will learn the differences between pastoral and secular counseling, short-term counseling processes appropriate in health care settings, working with traumatic events, family systems, and grief and bereavement. **Hours: 25 1 Credit**

Caring for the Smallest: Pediatrics

Course Author: David Pascoe, MA, BCC

Working with pediatric patients requires unique skills in understanding children's emotional and spiritual development, reaction to illness and injury, and the child's experience of the health care setting and treatment. This course provides information on providing age-appropriate care around these topics, providing support and care to parents, and the unique challenges of end-of-life care for pediatric patients. **Hours: 35 1 Credit**

Far Too Soon: The Anguish of Perinatal Loss

Course Author: Joanne Cacciatore, Ph.D.

Perinatal death is one of the most profound emotional, cognitive, psychological, spiritual and physiological losses a mother, father and family can suffer. This course provides an overview of the epidemiology of perinatal death, the trauma of the experience, spiritual and psychological issues, and ways to assist the family in their grief through ritual and other interventions. **Hours: 25 1 Credit**

Living With Heartbreak: Grief, Loss, and Bereavement

Course Author: Ken Doka, Ph.D.

This course describes the process of grief, offers current theories that have relevance to assisting grieving individuals, and identifies sensitivities, skills and tools to assist health care professionals in particular factors in various types of loss. Also explored will be the concept of disenfranchised grief, which is a reminder that the experience of grief encompasses far more than the death of a family member or loved one.

Hours: 25 1 Credit

When Care Is Tough: Supporting the Interdisciplinary Team

Course Author: Brian Hughes, BCC

Those who provide spiritual care are often called upon to provide emotional and spiritual support to members of the interdisciplinary team, especially in times of crisis and stress. This course will provide information, practices and resources on topics including compassion fatigue, vicarious trauma, burnout, one-on-one and small group work, and the appropriate use of ritual. **Hours: 25 1 Credit**

Powerful Communication Techniques

Course Author: Brian Hughes, BCC

Those who provide spiritual care need demonstrated proficiency in various aspects of communication. This course will review listening skills and methods, effective verbal and non-verbal practices, group communication, conflict resolution, negotiation, and goal clarification. **Hours: 20 1 Credit**

What We Hear and Say: Spiritual Assessment and Documentation

Course Author: [Brent Peery, BCC](#)

Spiritual assessment and documentation is central to the work of those who provide spiritual care. This course focuses on understanding the rationale, goals and process of assessment and documentation in order to contribute effectively by identifying and incorporating patient and family beliefs, values, needs and practices into the interdisciplinary approach to care. Hours: 20 1 Credit

The Challenge of Memory: Alzheimer's and Other Dementias

Course Author: [Doug McNair, M.D., Ph.D.](#)

This course will assist learners in understanding and applying concepts about dementia to their care of patients with Alzheimer's disease and other conditions in which cognition, memory and expression are impaired. It will provide information on how health care professionals can mentor and support patients and work collaboratively with families and other members of the health care team. Hours: 25 1 Credit

Values, Obligations and Rights: Health Care Ethics

Course Author: [The Rev. Sue Wintz, M.Div., BCC](#)

This course identifies the ethical and moral challenges that occur in health care and the importance of understanding patient and family beliefs, values, cultures and preferences in resolving any conflicts. The role and contribution of the chaplain in direct care and ethics committees will also be addressed.

Hours: 35 1 Credit

When It's Time to Say Goodbye: Introduction to Spiritual Care at the End of Life

Course Author: [The Rev. Sue Wintz, M.Div., BCC](#)

This course is intended for those who are new to, unfamiliar with, or wish to learn more about end of life issues in order to inform their care for all persons. Various aspects of end of life care will be presented and discussed, including the dying process and physiological changes, advance care planning, conflicts that may occur between dying persons and families, palliative care, and hospice. Issues of emotional and spiritual, religious, and existential distress will be identified as well as appropriate interventions, cultural, religious, spiritual and existential practices, and care of the family. Hours: 35 1 Credit

Courses in Development

- **What Every Clinician Needs to Know About Spiritual Care**
 - This is a core course which will be adapted for specific disciplines
 - Nurses
 - Social Workers
 - Therapists (Physical, Occupational, Speech)
 - Health Aides
 - Transporters
 - Volunteers
 - Physicians
- Talking about What Matters: Advanced Directives and Planning
- What to do with Information: HIPAA and confidentiality

- What We Do Matters: Continuous Quality Improvement and Research Within Chaplaincy and Health Care
- Walking Through the Maze: Pain Management
- Building and Maintaining a Chaplaincy Department
- Basic Pathophysiology for Spiritual Care Providers

Online Course Logistics

- Students can take each course at their own pace.
- Earn a certificate of completion and continuing education hours for each course completed.
- Students will have full access to the course(s) purchased for a total duration of 6 months. No further access to the material/course will be available after 6 months. The course automatically closes at that point.
- There will be one test at the end of each course. Participants will receive a Pass/Fail notification after completing the test. Participants have a total of three attempts to pass the test.
- After the third failed attempt, the participant will receive a “Fail” status on the particular course. If he or she wishes to take the course again, they must re-purchase the course again