

Palliative Care and COVID-19: Implications for Clinical Practice



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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Clarify the essential role of palliative care teams as their expertise is sought out for goals of care conversations, advance care planning discussions, and patient/family support in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Explore points of intersection between questions of resource allocation, Catholic ethical guidelines, and palliative care practice
- Engage in facilitated dialogue and best practice sharing with palliative care programs serving within Catholic healthcare ministries

“PALLIATING A PANDEMIC”

- “Stuff”
- Staff
- Space
- Systems

Downar J & Seccareccia D. Palliative a Pandemic. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*. Feb 2010;39(2):291-295

ROLE OF PC TEAMS IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- See SCC’s COVID-19 resource page
 - <https://supportivecarecoalition.org/resources-blog/2020/3/19/covid-19-resources>
- Supporting our teams, supporting our colleagues
- PC’s role in resource allocation decisions
 - Yes: policy, protocol, guideline development
 - No: rationing decisions for individual cases/departments
 - YES!: ongoing clinical support for all seriously ill patients

DECISION MATRIX FOR RESOURCE ALLOCATION

- Core ethical concepts
 - Social solidarity
 - Professionalism
 - Justice

Touhey J. A Matrix for Ethical Decision Making in a Pandemic. *Health Progress*. Nov-Dec 2007:20-25.

RESPONDING WITHIN CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE