

INTERN HANDBOOK

Hearth Hospice



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CODE OF CONDUCT

01 ABOUT HEARTH

Address
513 Georgia Ave
Chattanooga, TN 37403-3402
Phone
(423) 531-6555
Website
<http://www.hearthhospice.com>



02 DRESS CODE

Social work interns are permitted to wear jeans, a nice top (covers midriff, no holes, or explicit language), and scrubs; dress casually; clothes should be neat, clean, and not wrinkled. Sometimes, Kara may specify dress code depending on the visits for the day. First impressions matter!



03 COMMUNICATION WITH KARA

Professionalism requires boundaries in communication and practice. Kara asks that you contact you between 8am-6pm. You may contact her cell at: (865) 724-4982 or Email at: KaraAvent@hearthhospice.com;

Call Kara each week for supervision meetings. These meetings are just to ensure that you are on track with progress in your portfolio and learning plans. This will be especially important near the end of the year.



CODE OF CONDUCT

04 STAFF MEETINGS

IDG meetings are on Wednesdays at 8:30 am. IDG meetings are intended for Case managers, supervisors, volunteer manager, and social workers. Case managers present

If you cannot attend in person, call:
1-667-770-1557
with the code 910881#

05 CASE NOTES

Important abbreviations:
SW-Social Worker
PT: Patient

Case notes should be written in third person:
DO: SW observed PT in bed
DO NOT: I saw PT in bed
Names should NEVER be written in notes

Words to use:

- Disclosed (EX: PT disclosed...)
- "Upon observation"

How to end note
"will visit monthly and PRN"

06 PROJECTS TO DO/RESOURCES

Podcasts:
-All there is with Anderson Cooper
-The Heart of Hospice

Webinars:
-MJHS Institute for Innovation In Palliative Care

Other Resources:
--TED Talks



TERMS TO KNOW

- Advance Directives: “A legal document allowing an individual to specify what healthcare actions may be taken if they are unable to make decisions for themselves due to illness or incapacity. Ex: living will”
- DNR: “Do Not Resuscitate (withhold CPR/other life-saving measures according to the patient’s wishes to allow natural death)”
- Palliative Care: “Treatment to manage pain, symptoms and side effects of chronic illness.”
- PRN: As needed”
- PCG: Primary caregiver
- Watch List
- CM: “case managers”-they are the nurses
- ADL’s: Activities of daily living (eating, bathing, dressing, etc.)
- Respite care: “Relief provided to the primary caregiver by a hospice volunteer who sits with the patient so the primary caregiver can leave the house. Most hospices arrange for several hours of respite care a week.”
- Bereavement: “The process of grieving and mourning in particular, the loss of a loved one characterized by sadness and a deep sense of loss”
- Acute illness: “An illness with an abrupt onset from which the patient is expected to recover quickly and completely”
- Referral: “The initial meeting between a patient, their caregiver, and family members with hospice staff to discuss services.”
- Pulmonary: “Relating to the lungs and their function.”
- Prognosis: “An estimate, given by a doctor, based on the experience of many patients with the same disease or disorder who are of similar overall health and age, of how the disease will progress. A prognosis may or may not include life expectancy, depending on the severity of the disease and the likeliness of cure”
- Atropine: “Atropine drops are used in the hospice setting to reduce excess mucus secretion and saliva production when patients are no longer able to clear their throats themselves.
- Edema: Edema is the abnormal buildup of fluid in the body that often causes swelling in the feet, ankles, legs, arms, hands, or face.”
- Lorazepam / Ativan: “Lorazepam is a benzodiazepine medication used to treat anxiety in terminally ill patients and can be used alone or in combination with other medications to treat nausea and vomiting.”
- Dysphagia: Difficulty in swallowing
- Hemorrhagic: “Bleeding caused by the rupture of a blood vessel.
- EOL: End of Life. “This is the time when a patient’s death is imminent and they enter into their final phase of life.”

References

- Glossary of common hospice terms - hospice terminology. Crossroads Hospice Expect more from us. We do. (n.d.). <https://www.crossroadshospice.com/hospice-resources/hospice-caregiver-support/hospice-terms-glossary/#5>
- Hospiceadmin. (2024, February 12). Glossary of hospice terms. Understand Hospice. <https://understandhospice.org/hospice-terms/>
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RELIGION AND ITS INTERSECTION WITH END-OF-LIFE

Spirituality was found to improve quality of life and coping with distress (Renz et al., 2018)

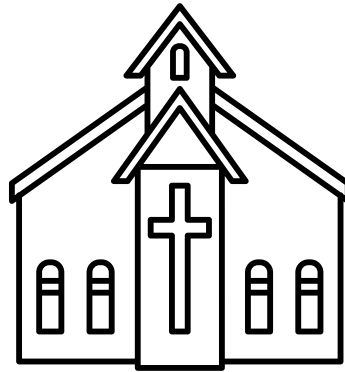
Beliefs About the Afterlife

Grieve among Religious Individuals

In a study measuring how religiosity effects adjustment after death with the sample of college students, researchers discovered that when posed with a hypothetical scenario of a loved one dying, students who identified as religious believed that a death of a loved one who was not religious would cause more sadness than if they were religious at the time of death (Krull, 2023).

Fear of Death

Non-religious participants expression of fear of death of self was lower than participants who were considered moderately religious. Participants who were considered highly religious had the lowest level of fear of death of self (Todosijević, 2023).



Beliefs About the Afterlife

In a study researching the effectiveness of Death Cafe's, researchers categorized after-life imaginaries. "Cessation" was the view that consciousness ends at death. "Energy", another category, is an expansive term that is interpreted as human consciousness superseding human bodily death. "Unknown" is the uncertainty of what happens after death. Lastly, "Transition" is the belief of a different life after death (Miller & Beaman, 2024).

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- Miller, C., & Beaman, L. G. (2024). Nonreligious afterlife: Emerging understandings of death and dying. *Religions*, 15(1), 104. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel15010104>
- Krull, D. S. (2023). Ready to Meet God? Faithfulness and the Death of a Loved One. *Omega: Journal of Death & Dying*, 86(4), 1449–1460. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00302228211014780>
- Todosijević, M. (2023). Role of religiosity in predicting the fear of death. *Facta Universitatis, Series: Philosophy, Sociology, Psychology and History*, (1), 043. <https://doi.org/10.22190/fupspsh2501043t>
- Renz, M., Reichmuth, O., Bueche, D., Traichel, B., Mao, M. S., Cerny, T., & Strasser, F. (2018, March). Fear, pain, denial, and spiritual experiences in dying processes. *The American journal of hospice & palliative care*. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5794111/>

RELIGIONS AND THE BELIEFS ABOUT LIFE AFTER DEATH

Presbyterianism

Presbyterians believe that when a person dies, their soul leaves the body to be with God. When He returns, the body and soul are one again, and will either have eternal reward or punishment

Lutheranism

Funeral preparation is important, as it is a way in which to confess faith, to share God's love, and to honor Jesus life and resurrection. The funeral is viewed as a worship service. It is believed that although the soul is at peace at death, the body will not yet be immortal or enter into the promise of God's promise of heaven and eternity. (Lifelibrary)

Methodist

The Methodist Church does not have a doctrinal statement regarding life after death because they believe the Bible does not provide a clear description. They believe in trusting in God and His care, and believing in God's return and eternal life (The United Methodist Church)

Baptist

Baptists believe in the authority of the Bible. They believe that salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus, and that one will receive eternal life in heaven if they have accepted Christ before death (everloved)

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- What happens after a person dies?. The United Methodist Church. (2019, October 1). <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-happens-after-a-person-dies>
- Team, Adventist. org. & The General Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. (2023, December 27). The state of the dead: From death to life. Seventh-day Adventist Church. <https://www.adventist.org/death-and-resurrection/#meaning>
- Blackburn, J. (2021, June 24). What happens to our bodies immediately after we die?. Catholic Answers. <https://www.catholic.com/qa/what-happens-to-our-bodies-immediately-after-we-die>
- Life after death. Presbyterian Mission Agency. (2018, June 20). <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/what-we-believe/life-after-death/>

RELIGIONS AND THE BELIEFS ABOUT LIFE AFTER DEATH

Seventh-Day Adventist

Seventh-Day Adventists believe that when the body dies, it is in a state of “rest” before God comes. The dead have no sense of consciousness. Death occurs because of sin (Adventist.org)

Anglican

Although there are many viewpoints within the church, it was said that the traditional viewpoint is that naturally humans are sinners and separated from God. Death is and can be while living and after death. However, because of redemption, humanity can have eternal life through Christ. (Person, 2024)

Pentecostal Church of God

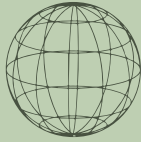
The Pentecostal church believes that salvation is a gift through Christ, and can be lost even after acceptance. Bodily healing is possible through God through faith to believers. They believe that there is no specific date that is known to man for His return. The coming of Christ is believed to be personal, imminent, and pre-millennial (Beliefs and Bylaws).

Catholic

Catholics believe that the spiritual soul does not die. It will reunite with the body at the resurrection. Since the soul is immortal, it is judged at death, and is sent to heaven or hell (Blackburn, 2021).

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- Person. (2024, April 1). Afterlife and salvation. Patheos. <https://www.patheos.com/library/anglican/beliefs/afterlife-and-salvation>
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