Death for Clinicians: How to Treat a Patient who is Dying

In this 10-week elective we will explore the challenges of treating a patient who is dying.

Each session will begin with a short, guided meditation. Participants will be asked to write a brief journal entry each week to reflect on the experience of reading that week’s papers. For background, we will begin by familiarizing ourselves with the actual stages of the death process, the reality of how we die.

1. The death process I: An exploration of pre-conceptions about death and dying


2. The death process II:

*The Signs of Dying*, adapted from the Amitabha Hospice of Australia

Exercise: A Guided Meditation on Dying

3. How to talk about dying with your patient:

(Guest speaker: Dr. Ruth Livingston, Ph.D.)


4. Active listening:


5. Acceptance:

6. Transference/Countertransference: Holding and Subjectivity


7. Anticipatory Mourning:


8. Spirituality:

Guest Speaker: Robert Chodo Campbell, Contemplative Care Chaplain


9. Silence:


10. Death as Termination:
