

Title:

Spiritual care in hospice care settings

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Content:

Aims:

1. To describe the essence of spiritual care as it is provided by nurses in hospice care settings.
2. To understand what it means to seriously ill patients when spiritual care (existential as well as religious) is integrated in the terminal care.

Summary:

The empirical data are generated through ethnographic fieldwork in two hospice settings. The fieldwork consists of participant observations and interviews as well as informal conversations and different kind of written documents. The theoretical frame work is inspired by Kari Martinsen and Medard Boss in particular. Narrative approaches inspired by Harry Hermanns and Andrew Sparkes are used respectively in generating and analysing data and representing results. The narrative approach will also be demonstrated at the workshop.

It is expected to point out how spiritual care takes place in the interaction between the patients and nurses in hospice care settings. Furthermore it is expected to present knowledge that can contribute to develop the understanding of the concept of spiritual care and discuss how to integrate the spiritual dimension in clinical nursing practice. It can also be discussed how the results of the research seem to be transferable to other settings where patients struggle with existential concerns.

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