

Title:

## **Spiritual Care in the Critical Care Setting**

Author:

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### **Content:**

*The aim of this workshop* is to identify the challenges to providing spiritual care in critical care settings, with a focus on the central role of the bedside nurse. In addition to recommending interventions targeted to critically ill patient's spiritual needs, a forum for dialogue about critical care spiritual care practice from European and U.S. perspectives will be provided.

### *Summary of the content of the workshop/presentation:*

Is spiritual care essential? Or is it a nice "add-on" if one has the time or inclination once all of the "real" (physiologic and psychosocial) care is done? In the U.S.A., new clinical practice guidelines for patient-centered intensive care units from the American College of Critical Care (Davidson et al, 2007) include spiritual support of the patient and the family. In settings of end of life (EOL) and in palliative care, providing spiritual care is a required standard. Recent research in EOL in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) indicates that family satisfaction with spiritual care is strongly associated with satisfaction with the total ICU experience (Wall et al, 2007). There is little data based information specific to spirituality and critical care practice.

Among Western nations, the United States is aberrant in its identity as a religious nation, especially when compared to European nations who generally identify themselves as secular; as a result it is proposed that there is much to be learned about spiritual care from dialogue between European and U.S. practice perspectives. Using the appropriate elements of the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) Synergy Model for Patient Care as the conceptual framework, critical care spiritual care interventions will be delineated and time for discussion provided to evaluate differences between spiritual care critical care practice in the USA and Europe.

### **References**

Davidson, JE, Powers, K, Hedayat, KM et al: Clinical Practice Guidelines for Support of the Family in the Patient-Centered Intensive Care Unit: American College Of Critical Care Medicine Task Force 2004-2005. *Crit Care Med* 2007; 35:605-622.

Wall, RJ, Engelberg, RA, Gries, CJ et al. Spiritual Care of Families in the Intensive Care Unit, *Crit Care Med* 2007; 35: 1084-1090

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