

Houle Memorial Education Series 2019

“Doctor, I want to die, will you help me?”: Preparing for Difficult Conversations with Patients Facing Serious Illness

Featuring: **Timothy Quill, MD**

Georgia and Thomas Gosnell Distinguished Professor of Palliative Care
Professor of Medicine, Psychiatry, Medical Humanities and Nursing
University of Rochester School of Medicine

Tuesday, September 10, 2019 from 8:00am – 12:00pm MT

Location: Live Online via Zoom or in-person at Project ECHO
1650 University Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM

The question of whether severely ill suffering patients are entitled to a medical provider’s help to end their suffering by ending their lives has been debated since antiquity. The Hippocratic Oath suggested that this was outside of the ancient physician’s professional responsibilities, but even in that time there was considerable disagreement. In the modern era, the possibility of assisted death is further complicated by inequities in the availability of essential medical care, including palliative care and hospice. What options exist for patients facing serious illness? What are the ethical and practical implications of patient requests for assisted death? How might patients and medical providers prepare for these conversations?

Learning Objectives: By the end of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Recognize their own personal and professional reactions to patients facing serious illness
2. Understand the role of compassion and non-abandonment in maintaining the provider-patient relationship in the face of serious illness
3. Identify strategies to broach advanced care planning discussions with patients
4. Advocate for essential medical care in patients facing serious illness
5. Conceptualize core ingredients of palliative care, hospice, and last resort options
6. Formulate a structured approach to patients requesting aid in dying

Agenda:

- 8:00 Welcome and Introductions – Brant Hager MD
- 8:05 Case Scenario, Clarifying Questions, and Discussion Questions – Timothy Quill MD
- 8:20 Small Group or Paired Discussion of Case Scenario
- 8:30 Plenary Discussion of Case Scenario – All
- 8:50 Lecture: Addressing Suffering and Non-Abandonment – Timothy Quill MD
- 9:20 Break
- 9:30 Lecture: Broaching Advanced Care Planning Discussions – Joan Gibson PhD
- 9:50 Lecture: Palliative Care and Hospice Approaches to Serious Illness – Lisa Marr MD
- 10:20 Break
- 10:30 Lecture: Last Resort Options – Timothy Quill MD
- 11:00 Lecture: Behavioral Health Consultation for Patients Requesting Aid in Dying – Thomas Strouse MD
- 11:40 Questions and Answers – All
- 11:50 Case Closure/ Evaluation – Timothy Quill MD, Brant Hager MD

Registration:

To register for this event, please [click here for the registration link](#) or send an email with the subject line "Houle Lecture" to <bhaecho@salud.unm.edu>.

Join Online via Zoom

This course will be offered live online via Zoom. Please [click here](#) for connection information or email bhaecho@salud.unm.edu.

Continuing Medical Education Credits Available



The University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Office of Continuing Medical Education is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The Office of Continuing Medical Education designates this live activity for a maximum of 3.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

For more information, please contact: Brant Hager, MD,
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