

## Hospice Foundation of America's Program

# GRIEF IMPAIRMENT SCALE: RESEARCH AND CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS

### Self-Study ONLINE Course

#### DESCRIPTION

Although most mourners are resilient, a significant minority experience a profoundly disruptive course of bereavement that substantially impairs their ability to function in crucial life contexts. This presentation reports the development of a brief and efficient 5-item screening instrument, the *Grief Impairment Scale* or GIS, which assesses the impact of loss on cognitive, behavioral, health, social role and interpersonal domains. Results document the coherent factor structure, internal reliability, construct and discriminant validity, sensitivity and specificity of the GIS in evaluating clinically significant functional impairment associated with grief and support its use in health and mental health settings for both epidemiological research and treatment planning.

#### PROGRAM DETAILS

Hospice Foundation of America has taken its popular webinar program and created a self-study course for professionals. The online presentation features an experienced professional offering his own expertise on the topic. On the screen, you will see the slide presentation and will be able to see and hear the expert presenter.

- RELEASE DATE:** Program originally premiered February 14, 2023  
**ON DEMAND:** Viewing available to registered individuals for 6 months after purchase.  
**LENGTH:** 90 minutes  
**CE HOURS:** 1.5 hours  
**CONTENT LEVEL:** The program is mainly for professionals already working in the field, but is practical for all levels of education – entry level, intermediate or advanced.  
**TARGET AUDIENCE:** The course is useful to Health care clinicians, social service clinicians and others working in the hospice, palliative care, counseling, hospital, nursing home, funeral home or faith community environments

#### HOW THE ONLINE SELF-STUDY PROGRAM WORKS

**Step 1** - Register/purchase the course

**Step 2** - View the course online through the link in your confirmation email or in your account.

**Step 3** - Follow the instructions provided to receive your CE certificate\*.

\*An evaluation and a short exam are a part of this process.

#### TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

A computer and reliable internet connection. Mobile service provider charges may apply.

#### REGISTRATION INFORMATION/FEEES

Register directly online, on HFA's website: [www.hospicefoundation.org](http://www.hospicefoundation.org).

**There are no refunds on registration.** \*Few exceptions may occur depending on the circumstance. To request a refund, a written request must be received (and granted) by HFA.

## REGISTRATION POLICY

### INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION

Provides one person, the registrant, access to the self-study course for personal viewing and continuing education. Discounts may be available for multiple viewers. Please check HFA's website at [www.hospicefoundation.org](http://www.hospicefoundation.org) for current pricing.

### MATERIALS AREA

Course materials (Video, Program Slides, and Viewer Guide) are accessible to all registered individuals online immediately after registering. Download materials are available on HFA's website at <https://hospicefoundation.org/Shop-HFA/My-Account>, under "Orders/Courses."

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THIS PROGRAM, PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

- Identify 3 major limitations of previous scales for assessing functional impairment in the context of bereavement
- Describe the key biopsychosocial domains assessed by the Grief Impairment Scale (GIS)
- Summarize the evidence for the GIS's factorial, convergent, and discriminant validity
- Discuss two practical uses of the GIS in health and mental health care settings

## PROGRAM OUTLINE

- I. Functional Impairment in Bereavement: Diagnostic and Clinical Relevance (5 minutes)
- II. Assessing the Toll of Grief: Shortcomings of Existing Methods (5 minutes)
- III. Grief Impairment Scale: Conceptualization and Development (20 minutes)
- IV. Toward a Practical Screener for Impairment: Validity and Reliability (25 minutes)
- V. Using the GIS: Research and Applied Settings (25 minutes)
- VI. Conclusion/Question and Answer Session (10 minutes)

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

This program is valid for 1.5 contact hours of continuing education. View the current list of board approvals on HFA's website at [www.hospicefoundation.org](http://www.hospicefoundation.org), located on the program's registration page.

## COURSE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:

Participants must view the entire 90-minute program (online-streaming video). Partial credit is not awarded. Participants must also complete the entire CE process online before a certificate is awarded. The online CE process includes a required evaluation form and exam. The exam must be completed at 80% or above (the exam may be re-taken, if necessary).

## EXPERT SPEAKERS

**Sherman A. Lee, PhD**, is an associate professor of psychology at Christopher Newport University. He studies negative feeling states, such as anxiety and grief, with a specialization in psychological measurement. He has published over 75 journal articles and book chapters and teaches courses in the psychology of personality, psychology of the human-animal bond, and the psychology of death, dying, and bereavement.

**Robert A. Neimeyer, PhD**, directs the Portland Institute for Loss and Transition, and maintains an active consulting and coaching practice. Neimeyer has published over 500 journal articles and book chapters as well as 32 books, including *New Techniques of Grief Therapy*, and serves as Editor of *Death Studies*. He is currently working to advance a more adequate theory of grieving as a meaning-making process.

## REVIEWER

**Angela Novas, MSN, RN, CRNP**, *Senior Medical Officer*, Hospice Foundation of America

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES:**

Julia Treml, Julia Kaiser, Anna Plexnies, Anette Kersting (2020). Assessing prolonged grief disorder: A systematic review of assessment instruments. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, Volume 274, Pages 420-434, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2020.05.049>.

Ennis N, Bottomley J, Sawyer J, Moreland AD, Rheingold AA. Measuring Grief in the Context of Traumatic Loss: A Systematic Review of Assessment Instruments. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*. May 2022. doi:[10.1177/15248380221093694](https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380221093694)

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Lee, S., Neimeyer, R.A., and Breen, L.J. (2021). [The Utility of the Pandemic Grief Scale in Identifying Functional Impairment from COVID-19 Bereavement](#). *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 24:12, 1783-1788.

Neimeyer, R. A. (Ed.) (2022). *Techniques of Grief Therapy: Assessment and Intervention*. New York, NY: Routledge.

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**CE Certificates for this program may only be obtained through HFA.**

## **SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITY (ADA)**

Reasonable accommodation may be made available, on an individual basis. To request accommodation, please contact HFA via email at [educate@hospicefoundation.org](mailto:educate@hospicefoundation.org) or call 800-854-3402, or write to HFA, 1707 L Street NW, Suite 220, Washington, DC 20036.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Planners (Panelists and Reviewers) disclose no conflict of interest relative to this educational activity.

## **FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR ADDRESSING GRIEVANCES**

### **PLEASE CONTACT**

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