

Hospice Foundation of America's Program

**ASSESSING AND ADDRESSING
END-OF-LIFE NEEDS OF VETERANS**

Self-Study ONLINE Course

DESCRIPTION

The varied experiences of our country's veterans call for different approaches to end-of-life care. As younger generations of veterans enter hospice and rules around care change, hospices and their staffs face new face challenges. This webinar addresses the needs of veterans and their families at life's end; recent developments in concurrent palliative and hospice care; and how hospices work with veterans in their communities to provide quality care that honors their service.

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 October 8, 2024
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.

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 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:

1. Describe the PACT Act and how hospice staff can support Veterans' Toxic Exposure Screening (TES).
2. Explain "Palliative Concurrent Care" and what this means for Veterans receiving hospice care.
3. Identify at least two unique issues faced by veterans at end-of-life.
4. Identify the benefits of the We Honor Veterans program.
5. Describe health risks related to specific conflicts.
6. Describe strategies and resources for the assessment and management of end-of-life issues for veterans.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Part I: *Presented by Ryan Weller, LCSW, APHSW-C (15 min)*

- I. Give an overview of the large scale of Veterans who are receiving hospice (e.g., the number using the Medicare Benefit, the number using VA pay). (3 min)
- II. Define the PACT Act; give data regarding the number of Veterans screened for Toxic Exposure; describe scenario(s) where hospice staff can support Toxic Exposure Screening and perhaps lead to an increase in VA Benefits for Veterans and families. (3 min)
- III. Describe the VA Whole Health initiative, list several resources available to Veterans and family members, describe where hospice staff can access more information and access to these resources. (3 min)
- IV. Share the VA Survivors & Burial Kit resource; give examples of the type of information available in the kit regarding VA Benefits for burial and survivors. (3 min)
- V. Describe the update in CMS' policy about Concurrent Palliative Care for Veterans who are dually-enrolled in VA and Medicare, and give examples of what this means for Veterans wanting to receive services from VA while receiving hospice care. (3 min)

Part 2: *Presented by Dorothy Wholihan, DNP, AGPCNP-BC, ACHPN, FPCN, FAAN (23min)*

- VI. Identify unique issues faced by veterans at end-of-life (5 min)
 - a. Demographics of veterans
 - i. Numbers
 - ii. Veteran characteristics (culture)
 - iii. Potential diagnoses
 - b. End-of-Life issues for veterans (8 min)
 - i. Pain and symptoms
 - ii. Mental health issues
 1. Depression-anxiety
 2. SUD
 3. PTSD
 - iii. Vulnerable groups
 1. Women vets
 2. LGBTQ vets
 3. Rural vets
- VII. Describe strategies and resources for the assessment and management of end-of-life issues for veterans. (10 min)
 - a. Assessment
 - i. Symptom Assessment
 - ii. PACT screening
 - iii. Military history checklist
 - b. Mental health treatment
 - c. Earlier hospice referral
 - d. Prognostication challenges
 - e. Resources
 - i. We Honor Vets

ii. ELNEC

VIII. Entitlements

Part 3: Presented by Angie Meyer, MSN, RN, CHPN, COS-C (22min)

- IX. Discuss 15 Things Veterans Want You to Know by PsychArmour (8 min)
- X. Explain the We Honor Veterans program. (5 min)
- XI. Educate health risks that are related to conflicts through the different eras. (4 min)
- XII. Educate how to help Veterans receive benefits. (2 min)
- XIII. Educate how to advocate for Veterans. (3 min)

Part 4: Question and Answer session (30 min)

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, 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

Angie Meyer, MSN, RN, CHPN, COS-C, Clinical Manager of Home Health and Hospice at Gundersen Palmer Lutheran Hospitals and Clinics, has been working in hospice for over ten years. As a Certified Hospice and Palliative Care Nurse, Angie is dedicated to serving her community in rural Northeast Iowa. Angie is the leader of the Gundersen Palmer Hospice We Honor Veterans Program, board member of the Iowa Hospice Veteran Partnership, and president-elect for Hospice and Palliative Care Association of Iowa. Angie has experience with advocacy at the state and federal levels. Angie was a We Advocate for Veterans representative in 2024 for Hospice Action Week on behalf of the We Honor Veterans Partnership. She also wrote an article for the American Nurses Journal on Honoring Our Veterans.

Ryan Weller, LCSW, APHSW-C, is the National Program Manager for Palliative and Hospice Care for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Prior to this role, he was the team leader and clinical social worker for the Portland (Oregon) VA Medical Center's Palliative Care Consult Team for 20 years. During 10 of those years, he was also the VA's Northwest regional program manager for palliative and hospice care. He has a Certificate in Care of the Dying from Wellspring Hospice-At-Home, a hospice based in London, England, where Ryan trained for a year in end-of-life care.

Dorothy Wholihan, DNP, AGPCNP-BC, ACHPN, FPCN, FAAN, is director of the Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner Program and a clinical professor of nursing at the NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing. She is a palliative care nurse practitioner with over 40 years of nursing experience and maintains a current practice as a palliative care nurse practitioner at the JJ Peters VA Medical Center in Bronx, NY. Dr. Wholihan is a national and international faculty trainer for the End of Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC). This work included curricular development and direct teaching in a special course entitled, ELNEC for Veterans. Her practice and research interests include spiritual aspects of care, communication skills training, and the care of veterans at end of life.

REVIEWER

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

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Reasonable accommodation may be made available, on an individual basis. To request accommodation, please contact HFA via email at 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 Hospice Foundation of America (HFA)

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