

Hospice Foundation of America's Program

THE USE OF VIRTUAL REALITY IN HOSPICE CARE AND BEREAVEMENT

Online CE Course

DESCRIPTION

VR as an Intervention: bringing Awe to hospice and palliative care.

New research has proven that immersive Virtual Reality is extremely effective at inducing awe and that awe can be beneficial for patients emotionally and physically. By shifting a patient's focus from their diagnosis, VR can induce a transformative experience.

This talk will include:

- Lessons learned from hospice and palliative care
- Using VR to induce awe for immersive therapy and transformation
- Transforming the patient experience
- The role of STEs (self-transcendent experiences)
- Research from our new publication of Virtual Reality for Serious Illness

PROGRAM DETAILS

The online presentation features an experienced professional offering their own expertise on the topic. On the screen, you will see the slide presentation and will be able to see and hear the expert presenters.

RELEASE DATE: Program originally premiered November 18, 2025

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 COURSE 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 – Complete the online exam and evaluation

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

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

REGISTRATION AND COURSE MATERIALS

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.

Course materials include the online program video, slides, and viewer guide. All course materials are accessible online immediately after registering.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

1. Describe the impact of isolation and spiritual pain on persons facing a life-limiting diagnosis.
2. Illustrate how virtual reality intervention, when prescribed and implemented well, can address spiritual pain.
3. Explain the value of achieving awe in the intervention during the serious or terminal illness.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

1. Intro to the presenters with foundational reason for why the interest in the topic (5 min)
2. Overall summary (5 min)
 - a. The use of hospice VR and the history with the university and how it all historically began.
 - b. VR for Good
 - c. VR, AR, MR
3. The palliative clinic VR research (5 min)
 - a. What was the research plan
 - b. What was the research aim
 - c. What did we actually find
4. What is the existential crisis (10 min)
 - a. Defining the issues of our population
 - b. Shortage of staffing issues in healthcare
 - c. Understanding functional impairment/isolation and new trended CDC recognized diagnosis
5. What is the real model for palliative and how can we enhance it (10 min)
 - a. There's no defined model like in hospice, so VR can play a huge role in doing more for these patients outside of very occasional symptom management and maybe a social work call, especially in the homes.
6. VR as an intervention and what is the science behind the brain (10 min)
7. Awe and all the research (5 min)
8. Methodology and needed training and explaining a VR therapist in the role (5 min)
9. Case studies to support (10 min)
10. Explaining the importance of VR content and going through radiance and luminance (5 min)
11. Wrap up (5 min)
12. Question & Answer Session (15 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

Kathleen Benton, DrPH, MA, is the CEO of Hospice Savannah, Inc. She is deeply involved in the region through volunteer advisory board roles with the Technical College System of Georgia's local technical college and Georgia Southern University's Waters College Advisory Board while holding professorships at Armstrong State University, Mercer University School of Medicine and the Medical College of Georgia. Dr. Benton holds a master's degree in medical ethics and a doctorate in public health. She has authored and reviewed numerous publications on topics such as palliative care, ethics, hospice, and communication. Her first publication, a children's book entitled *Daniel's World: A Book About Children with Disabilities*, is closest to her heart. Her other publications include *The Skill of End-of-Life Communication for Clinicians* (2017), *Finding Dignity at the End of Life: A Spiritual Reflection on Palliative Care* (2019), and her latest book, *Virtual Reality for*

Serious Illness (2024). She lives her vocation as CEO of four joint nonprofit organizations including Hospice Savannah.

Teri Yarbrow, MS, MFA, is President of MagikaVRx, an immersive media company and founder of “Creating AWE” a VR program for healthcare facilities. She is a Professor of XR Medicine at Mercer University School of Medicine, a Founding Member of AMXRA and VR Evangelist, passionate about XR Healthcare strategy and Immersive VR Therapy. An Emmy, and multi-award-winning creative director in LA, she created Magika, a successful digital media company known for using advanced technology. She initiated the “VR for Good” program, creating therapeutic VR for patients at Hospice Savannah-Steward Center for Palliative Care and created MagikaVRx to relieve pain, anxiety, depression and enhance quality of life through VR therapy. Yarbrow is a leading voice in VR therapy, co-author of a new book, “Virtual Reality for Serious Illness”, featured speaker at vMed in LA, Immersive Tech Week, and AWE, nominated for the prestigious VR Award for Social Impact and winner of the Telly Award for Social Impact.

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:

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