

## Overview of End-of-Life and Palliative Care Skills Training on the Wards Transition Week

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### 1. Key Points:

- End-of-Life (EoL) care communication and assessment are as important as other skills you are learning during survival week.
- As a medical student on the wards, you will have opportunities to begin to develop your skills in palliative and end-of-life care.
- Learning to just be present and become more comfortable with patients at EoL and attend to the needs of the dying is crucial. Your presence alone can make a big difference with patients.

### 2. Skill-building opportunities during 3<sup>rd</sup> year:

- **Ward –Based EoL care assignment:** gain comfort communicating and assessing patients at end of life on the wards and share self-reflections in conference. You will evaluate a patient you are caring for on **ANY CLERKSHIP**. Case conference takes place on Psychiatry clerkship. **Required for 3<sup>rd</sup> year.**
- **Interdisciplinary Palliative Care Modules:** 3 modules with online and live components: 1) Pain management; 2) Spiritual and cultural aspects of palliative care, and how to work on inter-disciplinary team; 3) Palliative Care in Emergency Medicine. (#1 & #2 on Medicine Clerkship; #3 on Emergency Med).
- **How to Give Bad News<sup>TM</sup>:** Dr. Fortin’s participatory workshop with standardized patients on Med 1.

### 3. Pocket Card: “Communication Phrases Near End of Life”

### 4. Faculty Support for EOL Issues:

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### 5. Resources: **YSOM Website-**<http://medicine.yale.edu/palliative/>

- Balaban, RB. *A Physician’s Guide to Talking about End-of-Life Care*. JGIM 2000;195-200.
- Morrison, RS, Meier DE. *Palliative Care*. NEJM 2004;350:2582-90.
- Crawley LM, Marshall PA, Lo, B, et.al. *Strategies for Culturally Effective End-of-Life Care*. Ann Int Med 2002;136:673-679.