

Original Article

The Construction of Spiritual Growth Programs for Physicians Based on Medical Ethics of Caring for Terminal Cancer Patients

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Abstract.

A physician is the leader and decision-maker of a medical team and has a direct influence on the well-being of all team members as well as patients and their families. A physically and mentally fit physician is especially important to the well-being of a terminal patient. However, little attention has been paid to the spiritual well-being of physicians. This study explored physicians' spiritual status and spiritual growth, and the results served as a basis for planning spiritual growth programs for physicians and assessing their spiritual well-being. The present study adopted Heidegger's qualitative phenomenological method and selected through purposive sampling physicians who took care of terminal cancer patients as study participants. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews and from focus groups. Results showed that the physicians faced difficulties in doctor-patient relationships and communication, patient's physical, mental and spiritual care, physician's self-care, the medical team and the medical system. Based on these findings, an 8-hour spiritual growth program for physicians and a 'Physician's Spiritual Well-Being Scale' (PSpWBS) were established at the Mackay Memorial Hospital and the National Cheng Kung University Hospital. A total of 177 physicians completed the program and the PSpWBS before and after the program. The study results showed that the lower-than-expected spiritual well-being of physicians was an important issue. Physicians' high level of satisfaction with the program indicated a need for programs in medical ethics.

Keywords : physician, spiritual growth, spirituality well-being, medical ethics

原著論文

以照顧癌末病人之醫學倫理，建構醫師靈性成長課程

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