Ethical Issues in Everyday Hospice and Palliative Care Practice (P14)

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Objectives

- Demonstrate an approach to addressing ethically challenging situations that clinicians often face when caring for patients and their families receiving hospice and palliative care.
- Recognize the influence of communication techniques on the patient’s end-of-life decision-making.
- Discuss strategies to address ethical challenges faced in clinical practice.
- Identify and engage ethical opportunities in giving and receiving care.
- Recognize the ethics resources available to clinicians through HPNA, AAHPM, NHPCO, and other hospice and palliative care organizations.

The primary purpose of this preconference workshop is to explore ethical challenges that clinicians commonly face when caring for patients and their families in hospice and palliative care settings. A secondary purpose is to help clinicians prospectively identify ethical opportunities in care relationships—opportunities that, if engaged, may help reduce the frequency or intensity of ethical crises in the course of care. Through discussion and interactive group exercises, we will demonstrate approaches to addressing ethical issues focusing on the use of language and effective communication. Emphasis will be placed on developing skills and capacities directly related to clinical practice. We will also discuss the importance of developing organizational resources in ethics to support hospice and palliative care clinicians, patients, and families.