

PSYCHOSOCIAL DIMENSION OF PALLIATIVE CARE:

ARE WE MEETING THE NEEDS OF PATIENTS AND FAMILIES?

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The intensity of social, emotional and practical problems that patients and their families are facing often increases as palliative care becomes the focus of care. Hence, the psychosocial impact of the illness becomes even more crucial to screen for and address. This presentation examines some important questions about the psychosocial dimension of palliative care delivery:

- What are the psychosocial needs of patients and families?
- How do we define psychosocial care?
- What evidence do we have about how best to help patients and their families?
- Are we meeting their needs? How do we know we are making a difference?
- What are the existing barriers, and enablers, to providing psychosocial care at the end of life?
- And will we need to do differently in the future?

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