

# Death, Dying and Palliative Care

The goals for this undergraduate medical education vertical theme in palliative care are that students will:

1. Describe and begin to apply principles of end of life care and symptom management;
2. Recognize the role of interprofessional teams in the care of terminal patients;
3. Identify ethical or legal challenges in the care of end of life / palliative care patients;
4. Begin to develop skills towards communicating with patients and families around dying and

## 1. The normality of death in the human life cycle

[Year One/Term One: *Medicine and Society I-human life course*]



## 2. The human response to death

[Year 1/Term 1: *Medicine and Society I*, Year 2/Term 2: *Foundations: Reproductive Medicine*]



## 3. Communication around end of life events

(such as breaking bad news, discussing advance directives, others)

[Years 1-2: *Clinical Skills*, Year 3: *Selected Topics in Medicine*, *Core Rotations in Clerkship*]



## 4. Collaborative Inter-professional End of Life Care:

[Year 2/Term 2: *Clinical Integration IV: palliative care iPBL*]



## 5. Medical Ethics: including end of life care decisions

[Years 1-2: *Clinical Integration courses Medicine and Society IV including law and ethics around MAID*  
*Foundations of Clinical Medicine*, Year 3: *Selected Topics in Medicine*]



## 6. Medical Care of the Terminally Ill

General principles of palliative care and system specific considerations are integrated into curricular sessions throughout the three years and include:

Year One:

- Care of the palliative patient (*Principles: Genetics/Oncology*)
- Care of the end stage pulmonary patient (*Foundations: Respiratory*)
- Care of the end stage cardiac patient (*Foundations: CV*)
- Care of the end stage cirrhotic patient (*Foundations: GI*)

Year Two

- Perinatal loss and palliative care (*Foundations: Reproductive Med*)
- Pain management (*Foundations: MSK*)
- Mobility & bowel care (*Clinical Skills IV: Geriatrics Skills Day*)

Year Three

- Palliative care case reviews (*Selected Topics in Medicine*)
- Pain Management (*Selected Topics in Medicine*)
- The Dying Patient/Palliative Care* (*Selected Topics in Medicine*)

## 7. Experiential Learning

Core Rotations in Clerkship: (Year Three)  
Palliative Care  
Pain Management: (Anesthesia/ER)  
Clinical Electives Course: (Year Four)  
Palliative Care Elective

**U of S Library Online e-book resource:**  
Care at the close of life: evidence and experience Ed:  
Stephen J. McPhee JAMAevidence