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 Interprofessional 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