



Religious and Spiritual Needs in Palliative Care

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (31 October 2022)

Message from the Guest Editor

Spiritual needs are commonly encountered by patients with sudden ill-health or loss and chronic or life-limiting conditions, as they seek to integrate their illness experience into their life trajectory. More information is needed on the nature and trajectory of spiritual and religious needs in palliative care patients, their family members, and carers, and how these factors are most successfully addressed. The interface between spiritual and physical needs would be part of this exploration. Working in palliative care is known to precipitate death anxiety in staff members, and this aspect of spiritual need is also of interest, as is the role of institutional support. The challenges of providing spiritual care in the context of secularization and pluralism within society also require more investigation.

This Special Issue calls for essays and empirical research examining the nature of religious and spiritual needs in palliative care patients, carers, and families, and how they should be addressed, from the perspectives of both those experiencing spiritual needs and those attempting to meet them.





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Journal Rank: CiteScore - Q1 (Religious Studies)

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