

Ideal Intervention Project e-Newsletter

Volume 4, Number 3

Summer, 2011

John J. Gleason, Editor

Chaplains in Scotland to Pilot an Effectiveness Questionnaire

A brief chaplaincy effectiveness questionnaire is being readied to pilot at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and other hospitals under the auspices of the National Health Service Education for Scotland and Mowat Research, according to Chaplain Iain Telfer and Dr. Harriet Mowat. The project is intended to develop and test patient-related outcome measures (PROMS). The PROMS questionnaire is completely congruent with the next step in the Ideal Intervention Project (IIP) research design toward testing and validating evidence based spiritual care best practices. Please stand by for information about possible comparative work in the U.S. later in the year.

Excerpts from the Editor's June 27 Open Letter to COMISS Network Leaders

"Dear Colleagues: ...In the near future U.S. health care professionals, including chaplains and clinical pastoral educators, will increasingly be paid only by demonstrating the achievement of evidence based best practices desired outcomes. ...Failing to demonstrate the ability to achieve evidence based best practices desired outcomes, chaplains and clinical pastoral educators will increasingly be replaced with local religious volunteers."

Reasons for this troubling forecast: "U.S. health care costs continue to spiral upward. Pay-per-performance systems are on the increase. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is being implemented. Other countries' chaplaincies are setting the pace by moving toward pay-for-results."

Action steps: "Make a professional commitment to vigorously advocate for the Ideal Intervention Project among your constituents... Contribute to the spiritual care knowledge base... Secure institutional commitment and support... Apply IIP learnings now..."

(Rationale and action steps details will be provided upon request to mariejohn50@att.net.)

Spiritual Care Knowledge Base Update and Uses

The Knowledge Base of Spiritual Care Samples is available to all for free at <http://www.acperesearch.net> and currently contains 179 reports of actual spiritual care situations, including lessons learned, as grouped in 23 inductively-arrived-at categories. Samples continue to be edited for entry in the collection. You can get these immediate benefits from use of the Knowledge Base:

- gain insights for your work in similar current situations
- require students to complete Ideal Intervention Papers after verbatim presentations, thereby consolidating their learnings by putting them in writing
- require students to forward their Papers for editing into the Knowledge Base, thereby making a contribution to the greater good by making their work available for study
- show administrators exactly what spiritual care practitioners and educators "do"
- complete (and submit) the simple form below as a self-supervision discipline--as a practitioner and/or as an educator
- document examples of your interventions and learning to demonstrate competency for certification.

Experienced SC Practitioners: Make a Professional Contribution for the Greater Good

Experienced SC practitioners, please know that you can use the five-step outline below to make your most memorable interventions available for study by others in complete anonymity. Cut and paste the form below into your files. Then create and submit your own IIPs as a vital part of your reflective practice. Confidentiality is assured, and you must okay any revision before its entry into the national SC knowledge base. Please remember, the ethical imperative and the professional challenge is to join in these timely efforts to learn at a deeper level, to contribute to the cause of eventually identifying, testing, and validating SC best practices, to keep getting paid, and most importantly, to better serve the SC needs of patients, family members and staff. Your IIPs will contribute significantly in these vital ways.

Educators, Join the IIP Today!

Help students consolidate learning. Help them contribute to the free-access, anonymous national SC knowledge base. Add the material below the dotted line to your next student handbook and/or syllabus as a requirement. Confidentiality is assured.

----- Cut Here and Paste the Following Material into Student Handbook/Syllabus -----

THE IDEAL INTERVENTION PAPER

You will consolidate your learning by selecting a verbatim previously presented to your peer group. Then, prepare an Ideal Intervention Paper (IIP) in light of insightful comments and suggestions made by those peers and supervisor. Use the simple five-step Ideal Intervention Form below.

Write the IIP in such a way that you or another chaplain could make a more effective intervention with patients, families or staff with similar spiritual/pastoral needs. *Do not address your learning issues.* The IIP should be prepared as a Word document suitable for forwarding as an e-mail attachment, and should include the following elements. Copy your supervisor with the forwarding cover e-mail message as evidence of your IIP submission to the national knowledge base editor.

Ideal Intervention Form

(For Use by All Spiritual Care Practitioners and CPE Students)

- 1. Statement of the Spiritual/Pastoral Care Central Issue** (e.g., Feeling Angry and Abandoned by God; Hope in Terminal Illness, etc.)
- 2. Narrative Summary of the Actual Spiritual/Pastoral Care Intervention** (No more than two paragraphs of narrative description. Take confidentiality precautions.)
- 3. Narrative Summary of the Ideal Spiritual/Pastoral Care Intervention** (No more than two paragraphs of narrative description of how you would do the intervention differently if given another opportunity. Write so that another practitioner with a similar situation could benefit from your insights.)
- 4. Resources that you would recommend to other spiritual care givers regarding this topic.** (Books, journal articles, pamphlets, etc.)
- 5. Forward a copy of this completed form to Knowledge Base Editor John Gleason at mariejohn50@att.net** as a Microsoft Word attachment for inclusion with similar data toward validating evidence-based spiritual care (SC) best practices. Confidentiality precautions will be taken. You will approve the edited version for entry in the SC Knowledge Base. Thanks for your contribution!

(Please go to www.ACPEresearch.net and click on "Ideal Intervention Paper (IIP) Project" to view the free-access national SC Knowledge Base and for further information on the Project.)