

DRAFT

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

for

THE SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF SPIRITUAL CARE PROVIDERS In Health Care

The Saskatchewan Association of Spiritual Care Providers (SASCP) is a group of practitioners who provide spiritual care within health care institutions and programs in Saskatchewan.

- Active membership in SASCP is required.
- SASCP are trained to provide and/or facilitate spiritual and/or religious care.
- Members ascribe to and comply with the Code of Ethics of SASCP in their practice.
- Members are endorsed for spiritual care giving by a specific faith community.

Spiritual Care Providers possess the knowledge, skills, judgment and experience to facilitate the delivery of spiritual care and engage in ongoing professional development.

In this document, the word “client” may include: patients, residents, family members and significant others, members of faith, religious and cultural communities, peers, colleagues, and staff members – individually, in groups or in a whole organization.

STANDARD 1: PROFESSIONAL VALUES

Spiritual Care Providers are accountable for the:

- 1.1 observance of excellence in the adherence to these standards of practice.
- 1.2 care and respect of all persons within their practice context.
- 1.3 practice of self-care through spiritual growth and professional development.
- 1.4 spiritual support of clients with whom they relate.
- 1.5 practice of active membership and participation in SASCP and their own supporting/endorsing community of faith.

STANDARD 2: PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE

The Spiritual Care Provider demonstrates knowledge and competence in the provision of spiritual care in the following areas:

- 2.1 respectful relationship and care sensitive to clients' beliefs, practices, structures and processes.
- 2.2 awareness of the process of spiritual development and the provision of care appropriate to clients' developmental stages.
- 2.3 appropriate care in response to the impact of crisis on persons, groups and systems.
- 2.4 accountability to the SASCP Code of Ethics.
- 2.5 awareness of relevant legislation as it impacts the provision and resources of the practice of spiritual care.
- 2.6 organizational, administrative and management skills.

STANDARD 3: FUNCTIONS

The Spiritual Care Provider demonstrates excellence in the following aspects of the practice of spiritual care:

3.1 Relationship to client

- engage with empathy, understanding and respect
- establish a relationship of trust and mutuality
- maintain confidentiality and its limitations
- accept clients as they ARE (never proselytizing)
- awareness of and responsibility for personal feelings, values and biases that may impact the client relationship

3.2 Care of the Client

- ongoing evaluation of client's spiritual needs and priorities
- assist the client to identify spiritual strengths and challenges
- support client in the identification and utilization of their spiritual supports
- clarify and ensure confidentiality and informed consent
- determine the nature and appropriate duration of the intervention
- support the clients' expression of their beliefs, values or emotions
- respect the client's right and capacity to make choices and use personal resources to resolve issues

- facilitate appropriate rituals in accordance with client's beliefs and practices

3.3 Relationship with other disciplines

- make necessary and timely referrals
- consult, as appropriate, to coordinate care in the client's interest and with their approval
- participate in interdisciplinary communication, documentation, consultation as appropriate
- participate meaningfully in professional interdisciplinary relationships as an integral part of the care team
- educate interdisciplinary colleagues about the role of spiritual care as a clinical discipline

3.4 Follow-up and Closure

- facilitate closure as appropriate
- follow up on referral
- document the intervention as appropriate

STANDARD 4: DOCUMENTATION

The Spiritual Care Providers demonstrate accountability to their clients and employer/agency/organization/community through documentation in medical charts as part of the care team of the spiritual care provided by including, as appropriate:

- 4.1 the referral source and the reason for intervention
- 4.2 the care provided
- 4.3 referrals to other care providers as appropriate

At all times the confidentiality of the clients' information is safeguarded.

STANDARD 5: PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Spiritual Care Providers demonstrate their ongoing commitment to personal and professional development. This commitment will be demonstrated by the completion of a minimum of 20 hours of spiritual growth and professional development each year:

STANDARD 6: ADVOCACY

- 6.1 The Spiritual Care Providers will advocate for the best interest of their clients while respecting the client's right for self-determination.