

# When to Call the Chaplain



*Partnering with Patients and Families.*

## The Role of the Chaplain

The chaplain does not preach at you, judge you, or try to convert you, but seeks to offer spiritual care, respecting your own views of life.

Drawing on your own beliefs and values, the chaplain offers support through caring presence, nonjudgmental listening, and spiritual counseling. When it is meaningful to the patient or family, the chaplain may offer prayer, reading, praying, singing, hugs, guided imagery, rituals, and/or sacraments.

## When to Call the Chaplain

- In crisis situations
- Whenever there are concerns about dying or when death is imminent
- In anticipation of test results, medical procedures, serious surgery or the receiving of a diagnosis or prognosis
- After receiving the results of any medical tests or procedures that bring bad news
- When experiencing emotional distress, discouragement, depression, anxiety, fear or despair
- During times of acute loneliness
- Whenever in need of someone to talk to in strict confidentiality or offering a confession
- When there are concerns about religious issues
- Whenever there is a desire for prayer, scripture or the administration of Sacraments
- Whenever there are spiritual concerns related to issues of moral value, meaning and purpose of life, or broken relationships
- At times of loss and grief
- During special times of celebration and thanksgiving
- Whenever a patient is considering leaving the hospital without the approval of their physician (AMA - Against Medical Advice)
- For reflection upon ethical issues and decision making
- Whenever in need of information regarding spiritual or religious values of diverse faith traditions
- Whenever in need of assistance in identifying or contacting specific Clergy or Faith Leaders (*Representatives from the Buddhist, Jewish, Hindu, Islamic, Protestant and Roman Catholic faith traditions are on call and usually available 24 hours a day.*)

### UNC Pastoral Care Department

A chaplain is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Call 984-974-4021 to reach a staff chaplain.

Patricia Cadle  
O: 984-874-8621 P: 919-347-0942

Darryl Owens  
O: 984-974-0219 P: 919-347-0983

UNC Cancer Network Lay Navigation Training 2015

Source: UNC Health Care, Chapel Hill, NC;  
Oncology Roundtable interviews and analysis.