

## WHEN DYING IS PROLONGED: CARING FOR PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESS



### DESCRIPTION:

Just as quick and unexpected deaths can create complication in the bereavement process for those who are left, so does lengthy dying processes. In this workshop, we focus on issues related to anticipatory grief and the uncertainty of the future. We talk about patient “hope” and how that differs from “denial.” Through this workshop, we will discuss how to communicate with and involve children in the dying person's care, helping families with decisions about memorial planning, and how to take care of oneself while providing care in circumstances of long-term care. In addition, we give attention here to the phenomenon of “losing a little each day,” experienced among family members and caregivers to patients with Alzheimer’s disease and dementia.

---

### PROGRAM DETAILS:

This presentation includes a diversity of teaching styles including brief didactic sections (large group lecture), small group and large group discussions, and case analysis and discussions. Participants will have ample opportunity throughout the program to interact with the presenter as well as discuss problematic issues individually at the end of the presentation.

<b>LIVE DATE:</b>	October 23, 2025	October 24, 2025
<b>TIME:</b>	1:00 – 4:15 PM EDT	9:00 AM – 12:15 PM EDT
<b>LENGTH:</b>	3 ¼ hours (15-minute break)	3 ¼ hours (15-min break)
<b>ADDRESS:</b>	2 Maple Ave. White Plains, NY 10601	
<b>CEs:</b>	3.0 hours	3.0 hours

**CONTENT LEVEL:** The program is mainly for professionals already working in the field but is practical for all levels of education – entry level, intermediate or advanced.

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** Health care clinicians, social service clinicians and others working in the hospice, palliative care, counseling, hospital, nursing home, funeral home, or faith community environments

**This program will be presented live and in-person. Continuing education is NOT available for participants participating by livestream or viewing a recorded version.**

---

### CONTINUING EDUCATION:

This program is valid for 3.0 continuing education contact hours through the Hospice Foundation of America.

#### New York State Education Department’s State Board for Social Work

Hospice Foundation of America SW CPE is recognized by the New York State Education Department’s State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #0244. Social workers participating in the live course on 10/23/25 or 10/24/25 will receive 3 contact hours.

#### National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC)

Hospice Foundation of America has been approved by National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP #5729. Programs that do not

qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. Hospice Foundation of America is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs.

The content of this program is appropriate for a wide variety of caregivers including nurses, chaplains, physicians, bereavement program leaders, parish/congregational clergy, and pastoral care leadership. Professionals in other disciplines should verify the acceptability of credit for their board or organization.

### **COURSE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:**

Participants must attend the entire 3,0 hour program. Partial credit is not awarded. Participants must also complete the entire CE process online which includes a required online evaluation form. CE evaluations must be completed within six months of live course date.

---

### **PROGRAM FEES/REGISTRATION:**

Registration fees, including payment to the presenter and use of facilities, are paid by the hosting organization, Ballard-Durand Funeral Group. Participants will pay no fee for participation or continuing education documentation.

---

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the dimensions of anticipatory grief and how family issues potentially complicate it
  2. Identify sources of patient fear, anxiety, and spiritual distress at end of life
  3. Assist families in addressing child grief and involving children in a loved one's care
  4. Respond with NewYork-specific information about memorial options
  5. Apply principles for assessing risk factors and making appropriate referrals as needed
- 

### **PROGRAM OUTLINE:**

Introduction

Case analysis and discussion (:12)

Where we are going together: Objectives review and feedback (:05)

What we know about grief and its course: Reviewing contemporary myths and facts (:18)

[Break: 15-minute break not counted in CE hours]

Writing the final chapter: The dying and anticipatory mourning

The losses in dying: small group discussion (:12)

Core issues in end-of-life care

- 1) Evaluating personal beliefs and practices—durability, meaning, revision of connections (:10)
- 2) Completing unfinished tasks (:08)
- 3) Addressing end-of-life fears and anxieties (:07)
- 4) Establishing life legacy (:10)

Involving children and teens in loss

1. Considerations in caregiving—involving the kids (:10)
2. Perspectives on child and adolescent mourning (:10)
3. Insights from practice: Two program models (:10)

What every professional needs to know about memorial options

1. Making sense of options (:15)
2. Components of memorial costs (:10)

Making it all practical: Two cases for consideration (:25)

Evaluation & Questions (:18)

Total: 180 minutes

---

### EXPERT PRESENTER:

#### William G. Hoy, DMin, FT

Over the last 40 years, Dr. William G. (Bill) Hoy has been walking alongside the dying, the bereaved, and the professionals and volunteers who care for them. From 2012 to 2024, he served as Associate Director and Clinical Professor in the Medical Humanities Program at Baylor University. He is widely regarded as an authority on the role of social support in loss and his experience includes more than 20 years leading bereavement and pastoral care programs in hospice care. Though primarily a bedside clinician, he is author of 250 articles and seven books.

In his post-Baylor career, he acts as a hospice bereavement program advisor and provides continuing education programs for colleagues across the United States and Canada while continuing his active engagement with the Association for Death Education & Counseling, the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), and the Hospice Foundation of America.

---

### BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES:

Byock, I. (2012). *The best care possible: A physician's quest to transform care at the end of life*. Avery Books.

Chochinov, H.M. (2011). *Dignity therapy: Final words for final days*. Oxford.

D'Antonio, J. (2014). Caregiver grief and anticipatory mourning. *Journal of Hospice & Palliative Nursing*, 16(2), 99-104. <https://doi.org/10.1097/NJH.0000000000000027>

Davis, E. L., Deane, F. P., Lyons, G. C. B., & Barclay, G. D. (2017). Is higher acceptance associated with less anticipatory grief among patients in palliative care? *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, 54(1), 120-125. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2017.03.012>

Fritzson, E., Zhang, N., Wolchik, S. A., Sandler, I. N., Tein, J.-Y., & Bellizzi, K. M. (2024). Developmental pathways of the Family Bereavement Program to promote growth 15 years after parental death. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 38(3), 355–364. <https://doi.org/10.1037/fam0001189>

Gillies, J. & Neimeyer, R.A. (2006). Loss, grief and the search for significance: Toward a model of meaning reconstruction in bereavement. *Journal of Constructivist Psychology*, 19, 31-65.

Hoy, W.G. (2016). *Bereavement groups and the role of social support: Integrating theory, research, and practice*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Hoy, W.G. (2025). *Creating meaning in funerals: How families and communities make sense of death*. Routledge.

McCabe, M. (2011). The changing nature of hope: Development, psychotherapy, and life-threatening illness. *Professional Psychology: Research & Practice*, 42 (3), 229-235. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0023641>

Majid, & Akande, A. (2022). Managing anticipatory grief in family and partners: A systematic review and qualitative meta-synthesis. *The Family Journal*, 30(2), 242–249. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10664807211000715>

Moon, P. J. (2016). Anticipatory grief: A mere concept? *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine*, 33(5), 417-420. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1049909115574262>

- Pérez-González, Vilajoana-Celaya, J., & Guàrdia-Olmos, J. (2021). Alzheimer's Disease caregiver characteristics and their relationship with anticipatory grief. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(16), 8838, 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18168838>
- Rando T.A. (1988). Anticipatory grief: The term is a misnomer but the phenomenon exists. *Journal of Palliative Care*, 4(1), 70-73. <https://www.doi.org/10.1177/08258959788004001-223>
- Rando, T.A. (2000). *Clinical dimensions of anticipatory mourning: Theory and practice in working with the dying, their loved ones, and their caregivers*. Research Press.
- Sandler, I., Tein, J.-Y., Cham, H., Wolchik, S., & Ayers, T. (2016). Long-term effects of the Family Bereavement Program on spousally bereaved parents: Grief, mental health problems, alcohol problems, and coping efficacy. *Development and Psychopathology*, 28(3), 801–818. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0954579416000328>
- Shore, J. C., Gelber, M. W., Koch, L. M., & Sower, E. (2016). Anticipatory grief: An evidence-based approach. *Journal of Hospice & Palliative Nursing*, 18(1), 15-19. <https://doi.org/10.1097/NJH.0000000000000208>
- Swinton, J. (2015). *Dementia: Living in the memories of God*. Eerdmans.
- Volandes, A.E. (2015). *The conversation: A revolutionary plan for end-of-life care*. Bloombury.
- Worden, J. W. (2018). *Grief counseling and grief therapy: A handbook for the mental health practitioner (5<sup>th</sup> edition)*. Springer.
- 

#### **COPYRIGHT NOTICE:**

**This program is copyrighted. Its use and dissemination is restricted and unauthorized duplication is prohibited. CE hours as stated above may only be obtained through HFA.**

---

#### **SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITY (ADA):**

Reasonable accommodation may be made available, on an individual basis. To request accommodation, please contact Tatyana Fowler, Director of Community Outreach at Ballard-Durand via email at [Tatyana@ballarddurand.com](mailto:Tatyana@ballarddurand.com) or call (914) 949-0566.

---

#### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST:**

Planners (Presenter and Review Committee Members) disclose no conflict of interest relative to this educational activity. None of the planners or presenters for this educational activity have relevant financial relationships to disclose with ineligible companies.

---

#### **FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR ADDRESSING GRIEVANCES**

**Please contact Hospice Foundation of America (HFA)**

1707 L Street NW, Suite 220, Washington, DC 20036

[educate@hospicefoundation.org](mailto:educate@hospicefoundation.org)

1-800-854-3402 toll-free / (202) 457-5811 phone / (202) 457-5815 fax

