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| SPIRITUAL COUNSELING | **Last Revision:** | July 2015 |
| **Last Reviewed** | July 2015 |
| **Applies to the following THA Group of Companies:** | * Island Health Care * Island Hospice |
| **Included in the following THA Manual:** | Administrative Policies & Procedures  Provision of Care, Treatment & Service |

**POLICY**

All patients, their loved ones and staff members have access to ecumenical and inclusive spiritual support and counseling services. The spiritual counseling department NEVER imposes any particular belief system or religion on a patient or family.

**PROCEDURE**

1. During the admission process, patients and their families/caregivers are informed of the availability of spiritual counseling.
2. If these services are declined, this is noted in the patient’s chart. No other follow-up is needed; however, the Spiritual Counselor remains available to provide support if needed.
3. If spiritual counseling services are accepted, the patient/family is contacted as soon as possible by an Island Hospice Spiritual Counselor, who arranges a time for a visit or assists in meeting whatever needs are expressed.
   1. The Spiritual Counselor completes a Spiritual Assessment, which is placed in the patient’s chart. The initial contact and all subsequent contacts are also documented as progress notes and placed in patient’s chart.
   2. If requested, the Spiritual Counselor contacts clergy representing the patient’s particular faith tradition to perform whatever services are required.
   3. The Island Hospice Spiritual Counselor continues to provide spiritual and emotional support to patients/families based on their particular needs. This support may extend to the bereavement follow-up period if appropriate.
   4. The Spiritual Counselor participates in Interdisciplinary Team meetings.
   5. The Spiritual Counselor also provides emotional support to Island Hospice staff as requested or when the need arises. This support may be individual or in a group setting, and may include teaching or coordinating in-services on psychosocial or spiritual issues.
   6. The Spiritual Counselor may participate in funeral or memorial services for Island Hospice patients if requested to do so by the patient and/or family.
   7. The Spiritual Counselor participates in designing and implementing grief seminars available to the community as the need arises.