



In this month's newsletter, we are thinking about spiritual care and palliative care. Paediatric palliative care is for children whose condition is sadly terminal, and has a focus on quality of life and managing symptoms. Spiritual care forms part of the holistic, whole person approach to looking after children who are receiving palliative care.

There is evidence that the integration of spiritual care by a patients' care team can have improve quality of life (one study found that patients with cancer who received spiritual care from their care team had a quality of life score at the end of their life which was 28% greater on average than those who did not¹). There is a lot involved in palliative care, so what can spiritual care bring to the picture? We've had some thoughts:

Emotional support - Children receiving palliative care and their families experience huge ranges of emotions, which can be difficult to deal with. Providing spiritual care can involve active listening, and giving space for people to process their emotions. Spiritual care practitioners can help people try to make sense of what is happening to them and adapt to their new situation.

Religious care - For religious patients and family, end of life rituals such as blessings can be very important, and having a chaplain perform these can be very meaningful. Chaplains and spiritual care practitioners could also discuss hopes and fears around death from a religious perspective, as this is something that could be at the forefront of a dying young person's, or their families', minds.

Memory making - Much of the focus of palliative care is helping children and their families have the best possible quality of life while they are together. Spiritual care can help to facilitate this. Enabling families to create sacred spaces and a sense of connectedness can create meaningful moments which make the most of the short time children and families have together.



¹ <http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2646460>

Training Opportunity

The University of Birmingham is running a module on 'Principles of Paediatric Palliative Care' in collaboration with the Birmingham Children's Hospital Palliative Care Team. The module will run from March 2018 and is aimed at healthcare staff who would like to develop their skills and knowledge of paediatric palliative care. More details are available here: <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/med/pg-modules/principles-of-paediatric-palliative-care.aspx>



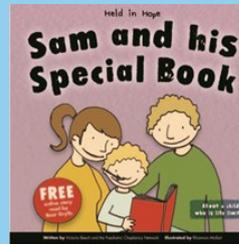
CENTRE FOR PAEDIATRIC SPIRITUAL CARE

Blog Post

This month, Emma Roberts, Project Coordinator and Research Assistant, reflects on the 'Researching Spiritual and Pastoral Care: Measuring the Value of Chaplaincy' symposium, organised by Mersey Care NHSFT, the Cardiff Centre for Chaplaincy Studies and the College of Health Care Chaplains. You can read about it [here](#).

Paediatric Palliative Care Resources

[Sam and his Special Book](#) (Held in Hope Series) written by Victoria Beech and the Paediatric Chaplaincy Network, illustrated by Rhiannon Mollart - a book aimed at children aged 5-7 to explain palliative care from a Christian perspective.



[Support for Muslim families who have been told their child is no longer curable](#), by Zamir Hussain —a booklet for Muslim families who have a child in palliative care.

[Supporting dying Children and their Families](#), by Paul Nash—a guide for Christians working with terminally ill children and their families.

[Multifaith Care for Sick and Dying Children and their Families](#), by Paul Nash, Madeline Parkes and Zamir Hussain—a book detailing key beliefs about children living and dying in major religions.

Featured Article

Wiener, L., McConnell, D. G., Latella, L., and Ludi, E. (2013) *Cultural and religious consideration in pediatric palliative care* Palliative & Supportive Care, 11(1), pp.47-67.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3437238/>

Abstract: A growing multicultural society presents healthcare providers with a difficult task of providing appropriate care for individuals who have different life experiences, beliefs, value systems, religions, languages, and notions of healthcare.... There is a dearth of literature addressing cultural considerations in the paediatric palliative care field... the purpose of this article was to explore and review how culture and religion informs and shapes paediatric palliative care.

Upcoming dates

Multi-faith Festivals

1st September—Eid-al-Adha
Muslim

20th September-Navaratri
Hindu

20th September—Rosh
Hashanah

Jewish

21st September—Al-Hijra
Muslim

30th September—Yom Kippur
Jewish

Paediatric Chaplaincy
Network (PCN) Annual

Meeting:

**Trauma: Individual and
communal trauma and the
role of paediatric
chaplaincy**

16th November 2017

10am-4pm

St George's Hospital, Tooting,
London

Cost: £10

The PCN is for anyone interested in paediatric chaplaincy. This year's meeting will be looking at how chaplains can support children involved in traumatic events. Contact emma.roberts33@nhs.net for more details and to book.



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