

Centre for Paediatric Spiritual Care Newsletter

Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

November 2016



The Centre for Paediatric Spiritual Care is a unique resource for anyone working with sick children and their families.

We aim to support and encourage research and resourcing for multidisciplinary spiritual care.

If you think you could contribute to our Centre by adding a resource, writing a blog post or contributing to our research please contact bch-tr.cpsc@nhs.net

Take a look at our website to see more of our research and resources:

www.bch.nhs.uk/cpsc

 @BCH_CPSC

This month's newsletter is all about spiritual care and ethics. Over the page, you can read about this month's blog post about how key medical ethical principles can be used in spiritual care, and find a link to an article about moral distress in NICU and PICU staff. Here's a little bit about why ethics in spiritual care is so important...

Anyone working in a healthcare environment delivering care to patients is in a position of trust. This places responsibilities on everyone working with patients to make sure they are working within ethical guidelines to protect individuals.

For spiritual care, this is particularly difficult as it is still an emerging field, and practitioners can be from a variety of different disciplines, so there is no set of ethics guidelines for spiritual care that they will be following.

Paediatric settings can present more challenges. Patients under 16 aren't able to consent to care, and so might come into conflict with their parents. In cases like these and other ethical dilemmas, the care team often look at what the best interests of the child are. Their spirituality is one aspect of their individuality which could be used when thinking about their best interests.

Religious care can also present ethical challenges. In paediatric settings, young people might have different beliefs to their parents, which can cause tensions which need to be managed sensitively. Conflicts can also arise when religious beliefs are at odds with the recommended treatment, particularly when the patient is a child and unable to give their own consent to treatment. In these cases, the right to freedom of belief has to be balanced with the duty to protect the child, and the child's own right to life and health.

Another area where spirituality may come into focus is when providing end of life care. Reducing suffering and respecting the wishes of the individual and family are an important part of providing ethical end of life care. One aspect of this can be providing appropriate spiritual care

Given that spiritual care is such a wide ranging practice, which in a hospital almost always interacts with other forms of care, it is important for spiritual care practitioners to be sensitive to ethical issues which may arise in their work.



Multi faith Celebrate Project:

Birthday of Guru Nanak—
Sikh—14th November

Martyrdom of Guru Tegh
Bahadur - Sikh - 24th
November

Advent Sunday—
Christian—27th November

St Andrew's Day—
Cultural—30th November

Ideas for celebrating
these festivals are
available [here](#).

Featured Article:

[Prentice, T., Janvier, A., Gillam, L., Davis, P.G. \(2016\) Moral distress within neonatal and paediatric intensive care units: a systematic review, Archive of Diseases in Childhood, 101, 701-708.](#)

Moral distress affects the care of patients in the NICU and PICU. This is a review of the literature on moral distress experienced by nursing and medical professionals within NICUs and PICUs.

The most common themes identified were overly 'burdensome' and disproportionate use of technology perceived not to be in a patient's best interest, and powerlessness to act.

Resource update

We have started to upload our catalogue of books in the CPSC library to Google books. You can have a look at the start of the new, searchable, catalogue here:



<https://books.google.co.uk/books?uid=105952297554321023979>

Remember, if you would like to visit the library please email us to book a time. The library is reference only. There is a desk for you to work at and access to WiFi can be arranged.

Blog Posts

This month, Emma Roberts, Project Coordinator and Research Assistant at the CPSC, has written about how key biomedical ethical principles, formulated by Beauchamp and Childress, can be used as a framework to think about the way that spiritual care is provided.

All blog posts are available to read in full here:

<http://www.bch.nhs.uk/story/centre-paediatric-spiritual-care-blog>

Upcoming events and training

*****Final chance to register*****

For those of you with an interest in paediatric chaplaincy, the Paediatric Chaplaincy Network (PCN) is holding its annual meeting at Birmingham Children's Hospital on 9th November.

The topic of the day is "Justifying our existence?": sharing examples of evidence for paediatric chaplaincy.", and will be focusing on research and evidence based practice in chaplaincy. There is an opportunity to share examples of your work if you would like to.

For full details and to register, please visit the event page: pcnmeeting.eventbrite.com

To find out more about the PCN, take a look at the website: www.paediatric-chaplaincy-network.org/