

How Chaplains Support the Ministry of Health Care

Providing professional, competent ministry to patients

- By addressing spiritual and religious needs and concerns, facilitating spiritual conversations and mediating conflicts.
- By fostering hope that taps into inner strengths and resources.

Intentionally and compassionately minister to staff through non-judgmental, spiritual and emotional support and counsel, while keeping the utmost confidence.

Support for accumulated grief and trauma of staff members

Help is provided to staff coping with death, difficult patients and other professional stress. Our focus and expertise includes identifying secondary trauma and compassion fatigue.

Worship, ritual, prayer are essential to our work and include sacraments, prayer and religious services.

Palliative and Hospice Care Support

We are here to help families through difficult health care decision making, including coping with lasting disability or impending death.

Participate in clinical and medical rounds to contribute medically current and relevant spiritual problems while highlighting the spiritual needs and desires of our patients.

Ethics consults: We are skilled in facilitating conversations when patient and/or loved ones and clinicians disagree about the plan of care.

Our Pastoral Care Staff perform all of their functions, including ethical consultation, in accordance with the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services.



Good and Gracious God

Uphold us this day

Guide our work, our minds, our hearts

Help us to lean toward each other

Trusting that working together

Will benefit all

May Your grace be upon us.

Amen



Catholic Health Services

of Long Island
At the heart of health

Office of Mission and Ministry

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The Role of Spiritual Care



As the Health Care Ministry of the Catholic Church, we seek the glory of God in the compassionate service of our patients, their loved ones and our staff. Care for the human spirit is an integral part of the healing process. Therefore we are committed to professional, credentialed, research based and accountable spiritual care as a standard component of care in our facilities and all of our services.



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When to Call a Chaplain

- *When* the patient is anxious or fearful of surgery, therapy or medical procedures.
- *When* a patient arrives in a traumatic or emergency situation.
- *When* patients and family members must make major care or treatment decisions.
- *When* a patient is seeking the sacraments.
- *When* patients are seeking religious symbols, materials, rituals and/or prayer.
- *When* the patient or family needs encouragement, comfort or consolation.
- *When* the patient seems alone or isolated from family and community.
- *When*, for unknown reasons, the patient is not responding to medical treatment.
- *When* families and clinical staff find it difficult to effectively communicate with one another.
- *When* a patient's illness causes lasting disability.
- *When* the patient is coping with long term or terminal illness.
- *When* a patient is dying or is being disconnected from life support.
- *When* there is conflict involving the patient, caregivers and/or family.

Pastoral Care Staff

Representing God's love and compassion.

CHS engages highly professional chaplains who are trained and certified in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) to provide compassionate spiritual comfort to anyone in emotional or spiritual distress. Our staff include Catholic Priests, Ordained Clergy from faith traditions, Professed Religious Sisters and Brothers as well as certified Lay Chaplains. The pastoral care staff is also responsible for maintaining close relationships with clergy and communities of faith beyond the confines of the care facility or in-home health care services.

Additional Ministries

- **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** bring the Eucharist to Catholic patients who want and are medically able to receive the sacrament.
- **Ministers to the Sick and Homebound**, provide a friendly visit, companionship and a listening ear.
- **Emily's Gift** ministry offers a special bereavement program for families suffering an early pregnancy loss.
- **Good Shepherd Hospice** provides professional grief support for adults and children throughout Long Island.
- **Gabriel's Courage** offers perinatal support for parents who received a life-limiting perinatal diagnosis.



A Blessing for Caregivers

May you see with tender eyes
The wounds of those before you.
May you hear with well-tuned ears
Their unspoken needs.
May you hold with gentle hands
The bodies and the spirits of those
you care for.

May you know that,
As you care for others,
God cares for you,
Sees you,
Holds you tenderly.

Amen

