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# Learning Objectives

MedBridge

*Death & Dying: Attitudes, Causes, Processes, & Measures*

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## Course Objectives

- Discuss the concept of death and suffering as a universal human experience
- Discuss and apply the concept of “Total Pain” to elements of the patient experience of suffering and death
- Describe how societal attitudes towards death may prevent us from fully engaging with patients facing the end of life
- Identify the major causes of death in the United States
- Discuss the concept of dying trajectories and their impact on healthcare decisions and family support
- Describe the physiologic process of dying in the months before death
- Describe the observable indicators of impending death
- Describe the common elements of prognostic measures including the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group Scale, Karnofsky Performance Status Scale, the Palliative Performance Scale and the Mortality Risk Index Score
- Describe the use of symptom measures including the Edmonton Symptom Assessment Scale, The Functional Assessment Staging Tool and the Palliative Outcome Scale
- Describe the use of standardized functional measures for Balance, Gait Speed, Endurance and Leg Strength.

## Chapter 1: Societal Attitudes Towards Suffering and Death

- Discuss the concept of death and suffering as a universal human experience
- Discuss and apply the concept of “Total Pain” to elements of the patient experience of suffering and death
- Describe how societal attitudes towards death may prevent us from fully engaging with patients facing the end of life

## Chapter 2: Societal Attitudes Towards Suffering and Death

- Identify the major causes of death in the United States
- Discuss the concept of dying trajectories and their impact on healthcare decisions and family support

## Chapter 3: The Physiological Process of Dying

- Discuss the concept of dying trajectories and their impact on healthcare decisions and family support
- Describe the physiologic process of dying in the months before death

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## Chapter 4: Assessments for Prognosis, Symptoms, and Function

- Describe the common elements of prognostic measures including the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group Scale, Karnofsky Performance Status Scale, the Palliative Performance Scale and the Mortality Risk Index Score
- Describe the use of symptom measures including the Edmonton Symptom Assessment Scale, The Functional Assessment Staging Tool and the Palliative Outcome Scale
- Describe the use of standardized functional measures for Balance, Gait Speed, Endurance and Leg Strength.