Figure #1: Domains of Issues Associated with Illness and Bereavement

DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Primary diagnosis, prognosis, evidence

Secondary diagnoses (e.g., dementia, psychiatric diagnoses, substance use, trauma)

Co-morbidities (e.g., delirium, seizures, organ failure)

Adverse events (e.g., side effects, toxicity)

Allergies

PHYSICAL

Pain and other symptoms*

Level of consciousness, cognition

Function, safety, aids:

- Motor (e.g., mobility, swallowing, excretion)
- Senses (e.g., hearing, sight, smell, taste, touch)
- Physiologic (e.g., breathing, circulation)
- Sexual

Fluids, nutrition

Wounds

Habits (e.g., alcohol, smoking)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

Personality, strengths, behaviour, motivation

Depression, anxiety

Emotions (e.g., anger, distress, hopelessness, loneliness)

Fears (e.g., abandonment, burden, death)

Control, dignity, independence

Conflict, guilt, stress, coping responses

Self-image, self-esteem

LOSS/GRIEF

Loss

Grief (e.g., acute, chronic, anticipatory)

END OF LIFE CARE/

Life closure (e.g., completing

Gift giving (e.g., things, money,

Preparation for expected death Anticipation and management of physiological changes in the last

Pronouncement, certification

Funerals, memorial services,

Perideath care of family, handling of

organs, thoughts)

Legacy creation

hours of life

Rites, rituals

the body

celebrations

DEATH MANAGEMENT

business, closing relationships, saying

Bereavement planning

Mourning

PATIENT AND FAMILY

Characteristics

Demographics (e.g., age, gender, race, contact information)

Culture (e.g., ethnicity, language, cuisine)

Personal values, beliefs, practices, strengths

Developmental state, education, literacy

Disabilities

SOCIAL

Cultural values, beliefs, practices

Relationships, roles with family, friends, community

Isolation, abandonment, reconciliation

Safe, comforting environment

Privacy, intimacy

Routines, rituals, recreation, vocation

Financial resources, expenses

Legal (e.g., powers of attorney for business, for healthcare, advance directives, last will/ testament, beneficiaries)

Family caregiver protection Guardianship, custody issues

PRACTICAL

Activities of daily living (e.g., personal care, household activities)

Dependents, pets

Telephone access, transportation

SPIRITUAL

Meaning, value

Existential, transcendental

Values, beliefs, practices, affiliations

Spiritual advisors, rites, rituals

Symbols, icons

* Other common symptoms include, but are not limited to:

Cardio-respiratory: breathlessness, cough, edema, hiccups, apnea, agonal breathing patterns

Gastrointestinal: nausea, vomiting, constipation, obstipation, bowel obstruction, diarrhea, bloating, dysphagia, dyspepsia

Oral conditions: dry mouth, mucositis

Skin conditions: dry skin, nodules, pruritus, rashes

General: agitation, anorexia, cachexia, fatigue, weakness, bleeding, drowsiness, effusions (pleural, peritoneal), fever/chills, incontinence, insomnia, lymphoedema, myoclonus, odor, prolapse, sweats, syncope, vertigo