

## Tip Sheet:

### Spiritual Care at Dana-Farber

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Cancer can be a challenging and demanding experience for you and your loved ones, and many patients look to spirituality or faith to help them cope with their illness. Dana-Farber's Center for Spiritual Care offers services that can be a source of support, comfort, strength, hope, and meaning. These services include professional chaplains, workshops, and a peaceful chapel.

#### Our Chaplains

Chaplains are spiritual care professionals who offer spiritual, religious, and emotional support without imposing a particular belief upon you.

- Our chaplains represent a wide range of perspectives, including interfaith, Buddhist, Islamic, Jewish, Protestant, and Roman Catholic.
- We also serve those who are atheist, agnostic, and humanist.
- Community clergy of other faiths can be contacted at your request.

At Dana-Farber, chaplains are an integral part of the health-care team. We also work closely with chaplains from Brigham and Women's Hospital to provide continuous services for our adult patients being cared for as inpatients.

#### What Chaplains Do

Chaplains are here to listen and provide guidance in a respectful way that honors your spiritual and religious beliefs and cultural background. We can:

- Meet with you before, during, and after treatment.
- Talk about your story, faith issues, ethical concerns, and ways to think about the experience of facing cancer.
- Help with other pressing matters on your mind.
- Provide a non-judgmental environment in which prayer, scripture, sacraments, and meditation are available for you.
- Help you obtain spiritual and religious items, such as kosher meals, prayer rugs and shawls, or rosaries. Sacred texts are available in many languages.
- Bless stem cells before they are transplanted.

#### Visit the Dana-Farber Chapel on Yawkey 2

The Center for Spiritual Care and the Dana-Farber Chapel are located on the second floor of the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care. You are welcome to visit any time. The chapel, with its lovely stained-glass window, is a quiet and inviting place for reflection, prayer, or meditation. Prayer requests may be left in the prayer box. The chapel is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

#### Spiritual Care Programs (free of charge)

- ***Spirituality and Cancer Workshops.*** These one-hour group sessions for patients, family members, and staff address the role of spirituality in coping with cancer. Workshops are held at the Blum Patient and Family Resource Center on the first floor of the Yawkey Center. For dates and times and to register, call 617-632-5570.

- **Centering Prayer.** A meditation from the Christian tradition to deepen one's relationship with God. Held every Thursday, noon to 12:30 p.m., in the Dana-Farber Chapel. All are welcome.
- **Shared Journeys: A Women's Spirituality Discussion and Support Group.** This monthly interfaith program for female patients includes a dinner, guest speaker or activity, and discussion on a spiritual theme. It is usually held the first Wednesday of every month from 6 to 9 p.m. Space is limited, so please call 617-632-5778 for dates and to register. Shared Journeys also offers a yearly overnight retreat.
- **Dana-Farber Men's Spirituality: Challenges and Hopes.** This monthly interfaith series gives male patients a chance to discuss their challenges and hopes while dealing with cancer and recovery. Each one-hour meeting highlights a spiritual theme and activity. Sessions are held on a Wednesday from 3 to 4 p.m. Space is limited, so please call 617-632-3906 for dates and to register.

## How to Contact Us

Call the Center for Spiritual Care at **617-632-5778** or page the chaplain on call at **617-632-3352**. You can also email [DFCISpiritualCare@dfci.harvard.edu](mailto:DFCISpiritualCare@dfci.harvard.edu) or ask your health-care team for a referral to Spiritual Care. To learn more, visit [www.dana-farber.org/spirituality](http://www.dana-farber.org/spirituality).

*This document is for informational purposes only. The content is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition.*