Counseling Individuals with Life Threatening Illness

This holistic, family-centered guide to counseling individuals with life-threatening illness considers not only the physical manifestations of the illness, but its psychological, social, economic, and spiritual implications.

Revised and updated to reflect the most current research and enhanced theoretical development, this second edition encompasses new therapies that enhance meaning-making at life's end, and offers expanded sections on counseling families during the illness and as they grieve. One of the book’s most significant changes involves the adaptation of a model of concurrent care. This model of care has great implications for end-of-life care, bridging the divide between treatment that is primarily palliative and treatment that seeks to cure or extend life.

Comprehensive and practical, the book discusses such social and psychological factors as gender, race, ethnicity, social class, education, and intelligence, and how they inform the experience of gravely ill people. The initial crisis of diagnosis is addressed along with unique considerations for those who live with chronic illness, those who are terminally ill, and those who recover.

New to this edition:
- Generational differences as a source of diversity
- Expanded sections involving meaning-making strategies (dignity-enhancement therapy, living eulogies, reminiscence therapy, life review, meaning-centered therapy, moral/ethical issues, and heart wills)
- Discussion of end-of-life phenomena and ways to assist patient and family in interpreting and responding to them
- Enhanced coverage of caregiver issues
- Expanded discussion of spirituality
- Additional behavioral strategies to assist pain management
- Anticipatory mourning
- Post-death grief for family members
- Chronic care and rehabilitation
- Incorporates Rand Study on Concurrent Care and other new models

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