

Session Title

Advanced Care Planning for Patients with Dementia: Navigating Complex Conversations

*Session is approved for SW CE credit

Session Description

Dementia presents unique challenges in serious illness communication and long-term care planning. As cognitive decline progresses, patients, families, and clinicians must navigate complex decisions related to goals of care, hospitalization, feeding options, and end-of-life preferences. Early and thoughtful advanced care planning can help ensure that care aligns with patient values while supporting families through difficult transitions.

This session will explore practical approaches to initiating and guiding advanced care planning conversations for patients living with dementia. Through real-world clinical scenarios, participants will learn strategies to address uncertainty, support caregivers, and collaborate with interdisciplinary teams to deliver goal-concordant care.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the role and importance of early advanced care planning in patients with dementia.
2. Identify common clinical and ethical challenges that arise throughout the progression of dementia.
3. Apply communication strategies to facilitate goals-of-care discussions with patients and families affected by cognitive decline.
4. Integrate interdisciplinary approaches to support comprehensive, patient-centered dementia care planning.

Speaker Bio: Dr. Emilin Pandian is a palliative care physician at Huntington Hospital within Northwell Health and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell. Her clinical work focuses on serious illness communication, symptom management, and interdisciplinary care for patients with complex medical conditions, including neurodegenerative diseases. Dr. Pandian is committed to advancing patient-centered care through education, collaboration, and thoughtful integration of palliative principles across healthcare settings.