

12 Reasons to Call a Chaplain

UPH-Meriter Chaplain: *noun* a trained, compassionate listener; available 24/7; supports staff, patients and families; no attempts at faith conversion (proselytizing).

Don't hesitate even a little if you find yourself in one of these situations. Call the operator to page a chaplain.

1. When **hospital staff are having difficulty with the circumstances surrounding a particular case**, a chaplain can help staff express their feelings, identify the meanings they have given to a situation, provide support and comfort, and if necessary, refer them to the employee assistance program for additional help.
2. When patients and/or families have **major health care and treatment decisions** to make, a chaplain can help the patient and family members consider the meanings they give to various health care options and make decisions they can accept.
3. When for no reason a patient **doesn't respond to medical treatment**, a chaplain can help patients identify meanings they assign to their condition or pain.
4. When a patient has a **long term or terminal illness**, a chaplain may be able to help the physician decide when and how to tell patients or family members. A chaplain can work with patients and families as they try to understand and accept the prognosis.
5. When a patient's **way of life must change** following an illness, a chaplain can offer the stabilizing influence of spirituality, resources for hope, and an opportunity for new meaning in a changed lifestyle.
6. When a patient is **anxious or fearful** of surgery, therapy, or medical procedure, a chaplain can help patients and families identify the sources of their fears and help to mobilize their resources of meaning and hope.
7. When a patient **needs comfort**, a chaplain can provide a caring presence, empathy, connection, and emotional support.
8. When a patient is admitted in a **traumatic or emergency situation**, a chaplain can keep the family members advised about the patient's condition, surgery, and admission. A chaplain also can give emotional support while families wait for news.
9. When a patient or family want to complete an **Advance Medical Directive**, a chaplain can assist in understanding the process and be one of the witnesses of the patient's signing.
10. When it is time for a family to consider **organ or tissue donation**, a chaplain can assist in providing information about organ donation choices while helping families explore spoken and unspoken beliefs that may affect their decisions.
11. When a **patient is dying**, a chaplain can help families deal with the news, begin to accept the impending death, and find a source of strength, hope, and comfort.
12. When a **patient has died**, a chaplain can provide ministry, support and comfort for families during bereavement.

Other Ways to Contact Spiritual Care for a Chaplain

Request Type	Call
Emergency	Operator or On-Call Pager 129-1011
Urgent or first thing Monday morning	On-Call Pager 129-1011
Non-Emergency During Office Hours	Spiritual Care 417-6480
Non-Emergent	Epic Spiritual Care Consult Orders