

END OF LIFE
Vertical Integrated Curriculum
Overview

“To Cure Sometimes, to Relieve Often, to Comfort Always – this is our work”
Anonymous, 15th century

In this era of technology and life-sustaining interventions, it is critical that physicians recognize their role in caring for patients who are the end of life. “End of Life” refers to that part of the life cycle when the possibility of death becomes a major concern for the patient and his or her family. It is a time when addressing the physical, emotional, social and spiritual aspects of a patient’s care is paramount.

The End of Life Vertical Integrated Curriculum spans the four year Stritch curriculum. Through lectures, small group discussions, panel discussions, on-line modules, and patient experiences students are provided with basic knowledge and skills to provide care for patients at the end of life. Topics addressed through the curriculum include pain and other symptom management, communicating bad news, advance directives, hospice care, and end of life care ethics. Student assessments include written examinations and the End of Life Clinical Skills Exercise at the end of the third year.