

Career Profile SPIRITUAL CARE PROVIDER

What is a Spiritual Care Provider? – Career Description/Scope

A Spiritual Care Provider is an unregulated health professional who seeks to improve the quality of life for individuals experiencing spiritual, moral, and existential distress related to changes in health, ability, and life circumstances. They utilize a holistic, relational approach to assess the nature and extent of the concerns, collaboratively develop a plan of care, provide therapeutic interventions to promote, maintain, and restore health and/or palliate illness and injury, and evaluate the implementation of the plan of to ensure its efficacy and adequacy.

At Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre we have a Spiritual Care Provider who focuses on providing indigenous spiritual practices for patients.

Education Requirements to Work in Ontario

- Preferred: Masters Degree in Theology or related field
- Minimum 3 months of supervised training within a health care facility, although most Spiritual Care Providers have up to 15 months supervised training, which includes a residency program

Spiritual Care Practice Requirements

- Entry to Practice
 - Membership in the Canadian Association of Spiritual Care
 - Specialists in Spiritual Care have a minimum of 2500 hours of post graduate supervised training
- Ongoing
 - Membership in the Canadian Association of Spiritual Care
 - Specialists in Spiritual Care go through a peer review process every 5 years, which includes taking an Ethics course
 - Associate members do not have a review process

How does a Spiritual Care Provider Practice at TBRHSC?

- Referral based service
- Spiritual Care Providers offer diverse cultural/spiritual services including cultural ceremonies and services for patients who follow indigenous spiritual practices e.g. smudging and pipe ceremonies

What does a Spiritual Care Provider Do?

- The Competencies for Spiritual Care Providers are as follows:
 - Spiritual assessment, planning and intervention
 - Self-awareness

- Personal and professional development
- Multi-dimensional communication
- Documentation and charting
- Provide care that takes into account culture, bias, and specific needs of clients
- Ethical behavior
- Collaboration
- Research
- Organize community clergy to provide specific religious services for patients, based on patient requests

Web Resources

- Canadian Association for Spiritual Care www.spiritualcare.ca