SPIRITUALITY, MEANING AND SENSE
OF WELL-BEING FOR PATIENTS
WITH TERMINAL ILLNESS
RESEARCH PROPOSAL
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ABSTRACT

RESEARCH PAPER: Spirituality, Meaning of Life and Sense of Well-being in Terminally Ill Patients

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Individuals with terminal illnesses have an increased need for spiritual care. It has been found that well-being and spirituality have a positive relationship to physical responses to illness can impact an individual’s sense of well-being (Meraviglia, 2004). The purpose of this predictive study is to examine relationships among spirituality, meaning of life and prayer and a sense of well-being of physical and psychological responses after a diagnosis of a terminal illness. This study is a modified replication of Meraviglia’s (2004) study. Frankl’s Motivational Theory of Meaning is the framework. A sample will be 50 terminally ill patients recruited from two oncology/hematology physicians’ offices in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The four instruments are: Life Attitude Profile-Revised (patients’ meaning, purpose in life and motivation to find meaning), the Adapted Prayer Scale (types of prayer activity, prayer experiences, and attitudes toward prayer), Index of Well-Being (psychological well-being) and Symptom Distress Scale (degree of discomfort). Findings will provide information regarding spiritual care needs of terminally ill patients.