



Areas of Emphasis	Sample Topic Ideas
Culturally Appropriate Care	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Serious illness and end-of-life care approaches (including pain/symptom management, grief/bereavement counseling, communication strategies and ethical issues) across diverse communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Individuals with cognitive/mental disabilities/intellectual disabilities o Individuals with physical disabilities, individuals who are deaf or blind o Racial/Ethnic communities o Religious/spiritual communities o LGBT o Veterans o Individuals who are homeless 2) Spiritual and/or religious considerations across cultures 3) Developing an inclusive volunteer program
Ethics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) End of Life Choice 2) Medical Futility / Discontinuation of life-prolonging therapy 3) Decision-making <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Determining decision-making capacity, o Making decisions when patient has limited decision-making capacity, when surrogate is involved or when there is no decision maker) 4) Ethical issues facing volunteers 5) Building and maintaining ethics committees 6) Training and onboarding staff/volunteers to organizational ethical policies
Family Dynamics and Trauma	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Complicated Grief/Bereavement 2) PTSD and trauma implications at end of life 3) Spirituality and trauma 4) Working through conflict with families

<p>Health Access and Community Engagement</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Innovative approaches to overcoming barriers in rural communities 2) Increasing access to traditionally underserved populations 3) Culturally appropriate advance care planning tools and resources 4) Partnering and community building to raise awareness and expand delivery 5) Role of community health workers and/or home-based community services providers 6) Making written materials accessible and meaningful to diverse populations 7) We Honor Veterans Programs/Partnerships 8) Access to care for undocumented immigrants
<p>Innovations in Hospice and Palliative Care</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Communication w/ seriously ill patients and families 2) Pediatric palliative care 3) Volunteer programs/resources/tools 4) 40 years of hospice and palliative care? – where have we been, where are we going (strategic trends and upcoming changes) 5) Family perspectives on hospice/palliative care
<p>Clinical Considerations in Palliative Care</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Fundamentals of palliative care 2) What is concurrent care? 3) In patient vs. outpatient 4) Community palliative care 5) How to fund 6) Pain management 7) Case Studies
<p>Innovative Services Delivery</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Use of technology to support service delivery (tele-health, smart phones, social networking) 2) Innovative models of palliative care delivery 3) Partnership and collaboration 4) Medicare Care Choices Model (MCCM)
<p>Effective use of the entire team: allied and integrated therapies</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Best practices in allied and integrated therapies 2) The role of integrated services in building trust, fostering communication, and/or involving family 3) Anxiety reduction and relaxation 4) Best practices in pediatric populations

Marketing and Fundraising	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Brand development and promotion 2) Social media utilization 3) The power of stories and story-telling 4) Fundraising strategies 5) Strategies for engaging volunteers/donors across generations 6) Marketing to skilled nursing and assisted living facilities
Mental Health	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Mental health implications at end of life 2) End of life decision-making with individuals w/ mental illness 3) End of life care for patients with serious mental illness 4) Dementia, Alzheimer's and end of life care 5) Chemical dependency
Pain and Symptom Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Team approaches to pain management 2) Spiritual and emotional pain 3) Innovations in pain management (pharmacological and non-pharmacological) 4) Non pharmacological approaches in palliative care 5) Delirium and terminal agitation management 6) Dyspnea, bowel care, and other non-pain symptom treatment 7) Medical marijuana updates 8) Appropriate use of opioids
Regulatory Review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) ICD-10 Best Practices 2) Medicare Cost Record 3) Hospice contracts, legal definition of kick back, enticements 4) Ethical and legal marketing strategies 5) Top compliance risk areas and how to address them 6) CMS Regulations and volunteer management

Team Dynamics and Self-Care	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Building and maintaining an organizational culture of self-care2) Best practices / new approaches in self-care
Workforce & Volunteer Development/Retention	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) University and nursing school collaborations to develop and mentor future hospice professionals2) Innovative approaches to volunteer recruitment and retention3) Hospice Review for Volunteers4) (Important End-of-Life Topics; Symptom Management and the Role of the Volunteer)
Policy & Advocacy	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Federal and state legislative updates2) Policy priorities for hospice and palliative care3) Advocacy tools, tips, and resources