

Carl Ricketts, Jr., MDiv, BCC  
Director, Chaplain Services  
Loma Linda University Health

Hendrik Hutagaol, EdD, BCC  
Chaplain  
Loma Linda University Health

Title: The Ethics of Spiritual Care: In the Healthcare Setting and Beyond

**Abstract:**

In the context of the Chaplain's code of ethics, spiritual care is a critical aspect of whole-person care delivery in the healthcare setting and can be expanded in the continuum of care to the community. Ethical guidelines can be found at the core of a Chaplain's spiritual care delivery, as Chaplains are called to deliver care for individuals, recognizing their dignity and worth. Also, the professional Chaplain brings value to the healthcare team as they recognize the spiritual dimension as an essential part of an individual's striving for health, wholeness, and meaning in life. The Chaplain embodies ethical care in the patient's healing journey within the four dimensions listed below:

1. Empowering the Care Team to utilize screening tools to understand a patient's spiritual background.
2. Providing spiritual intervention based on a professional assessment of the patient's spiritual needs.
3. Advocating for the patient's spiritual/emotional needs by cultivating a culture of spiritual awareness through continuous improvement in electronic medical record documentation, communication, and collaboration with interdisciplinary care team members.
4. Partnering with Parish-based clergy in the spiritual care of the parishioner/patient in the healthcare setting and beyond.

It is hoped that the sharing of this presentation will inform healthcare providers and parish-based clergy about the ethics of spiritual care delivery towards parishioners/patients and the possibilities of deepened spiritual collaboration beyond hospital walls.