

Objectives:

1. Describe how a diagnosis of a terminal illness can affect patient, family members, and their relationships with the patient's physicians
2. Explain the process, from a patient's perspective, of coming to terms with the diagnosis of a life-threatening illness.
3. Enumerate different ways in which patients utilize their unique internal strengths as well as familial, social, community, spiritual, or other forms of support, when facing a terminal illness.
4. Analyze why it is important for physicians to explore these dimensions of the patient's experience in their evaluation of and interaction with the patient