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Spiritual Care Guide in Hospice · Palliative Care

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The Spiritual Care Guide in Hospice · Palliative Care is evidence-based and focuses on the universal and integral aspects of human spirituality—such as meaning and purpose, interconnectedness, and transcendence—which go beyond any specific religion. This guide was crafted to improve the spiritual well-being of adult patients aged 19 and older, as well as their families, who are receiving end-of-life care. The provision of spiritual care in hospice and palliative settings aims to assist patients and their families in finding life's meaning and purpose, restoring love and relationships, and helping them come to terms with death while maintaining hope. It is recommended that spiritual needs and the interventions provided are periodically reassessed and evaluated, with the findings recorded. Additionally, hospice and palliative care teams are encouraged to pursue ongoing education and training in spiritual care. Although challenges exist in universally applying this guide across all hospice and palliative care organizations in Korea—due to varying resources and the specific environments of medical institutions—it is significant that the Korean Society for Hospice and Palliative Care has introduced a spiritual care guide poised to enhance the spiritual well-being and quality of care for hospice and palliative care patients.

Key Words: Spirituality, Hospice care, Palliative care, Education

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of hospice and palliative care is to relieve the physical, psychological, social, and spiritual distress of patients who are approaching the end of their lives, as well as that of their families, ultimately enhancing their quality of life [1]. Specifically, providing spiritual support to patients during endof-life care has been shown to have markedly positive effects on a range of health outcomes. These include spiritual wellbeing, overall quality of life, adaptability, physical health, and reductions in depression and anxiety. Additionally, it contributes to increased satisfaction with care, improved social con-

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This study was supported by the Health Promotion Fund, Ministry of Health & Welfare, Republic of Korea (2360110-1). nections, and more informed end-of-life decision-making [2– 4]. Therefore, spiritual care is a vital element of hospice and palliative care, significantly influencing the quality of the care provided [5].

However, previous research has found that hospice and palliative care teams (HPCTs) frequently experience a sense of burden when it comes to providing spiritual care, finding it challenging to fulfill the spiritual needs of patients. This challenge is partly due to a common misconception that equates spiritual care with religious care [2,6]. A comparative study examining the expectations of spiritual care among individuals approaching the end of life and their families within Korean culture, as well as the perceptions of HPCTs, found that patients and families placed greater importance on non-religious needs such as empathetic listening, fostering hope, and the pursuit of relationships and meaning. However, HPCTs often mistakenly interpret these needs as requests for religious care [7,8]. These findings suggest that a more fitting approach to spiritual care should focus on the fundamental and universal elements of human spirituality, including meaning and purpose, interconnectedness, and transcendence, while also considering the patient's religious beliefs.

Spirituality is a dynamic and essential aspect of humanity, encompassing the search for ultimate meaning, purpose in life, transcendence, and relationships with oneself, family, significant others, community, nature, and a divine presence or deity. It manifests in the form of beliefs, values, traditions, and practices [5]. Consequently, spiritual care that addresses the needs of patients and their families [9–11] should be integrated into hospice and palliative care practices. This spiritual care guide was developed with the aim of creating a spiritual care manual that reflects the fundamental and universal aspects of human spirituality for use in end-of-life care settings. It is organized with the following objectives and methods:

Development Objective 1: Identify the scientific evidence pertaining to spiritual care grounded in spirituality by conducting a literature review of international guidelines and other relevant literature [4,8,12–20]. Additionally, following the completion of the Interprofessional Spiritual Care Education Curriculum (ISPEC) Train-the-Trainer course by some members of the development team, a self-education program for the remaining team members was conducted, covering six modules of the ISPEC curriculum across three sessions.

Development Objective 2: Compose spiritual care content that is culturally appropriate for Korea. Preliminary research [6,7] involved HPCTs working in Korean hospice and pallia– tive care settings, as well as with patients and their families, to gain insights into their perceptions of and needs for spiritual care. Drawing on international guidelines, educational courses, and initial studies on spiritual care for terminally ill patients and their families, a draft guide for spiritual care in hospice and palliative care, customized for Korean culture, was devel– oped.

Development Objective 3: Provide a spiritual care guide for use in end-of-life care. A three-round Delphi survey was conducted with 15 expert panelists from HPCTs, comprising three physicians, three chaplains, six nurses, and three social workers. Based on the survey results, a workshop was organized to engage directors from the Korean Society for Hospice

	Principles
Mission	1. Spiritual care is an essential area of hospice and palliative care that helps patients and families explore meaning and value.
	2. Hospice and palliative care teams aim for a universal and integral human spirituality through an evidence-based approach that transcends any particular religion.
Goals	1. Help patients and families find meaning and purpose in life.
	2. Help patients and families restore love and relationships.
	3. Help patients and families accept death and have hope.
Standards	Standard 1 (related to spiritual care)
	Standard 2 (related to spiritual needs assessment)
	Standard 3 (related to spiritual intervention)
	Standard 4 (related to spiritual care education and professionals)
	Standard 5 (related to community engagement)

Table 1. Spiritual Care Principles.

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and Palliative Care and three representatives from various religious organizations. The purpose was to achieve consensus on the terminology, recommended interventions, and overall content of the "Spiritual Care Guide in Hospice and Palliative Care."

The complete content of the "Spiritual Care Guide in Hospice · Palliative Care" can be downloaded from the website of the National Hospice Center (https://hospice.go.kr) and the Journal of Hospice and Palliative Care at https://www.e-jhpc. org/main.html [21].

$\begin{array}{l} \text{SPIRITUAL CARE GUIDE IN} \\ \text{HOSPICE} \cdot \text{PALLIATIVE CARE} \end{array}$

1. Basic concepts of spiritual care

The foundational concepts of spiritual care presented in the "Spiritual Care Guideline in Hospice and Palliative Care" are delineated by integrating the definitions from the fourth edition of the American National Consensus Project (NCP) for Quality Palliative Care's spiritual care guidelines [14], supplemented by other international literature [22,23], and adapted to reflect Korean cultural nuances [6,7]. From the NCP's five domains of spiritual care, a total of eight key concepts were identified. These encompass five concepts: spirituality, religiosity, spiritu-

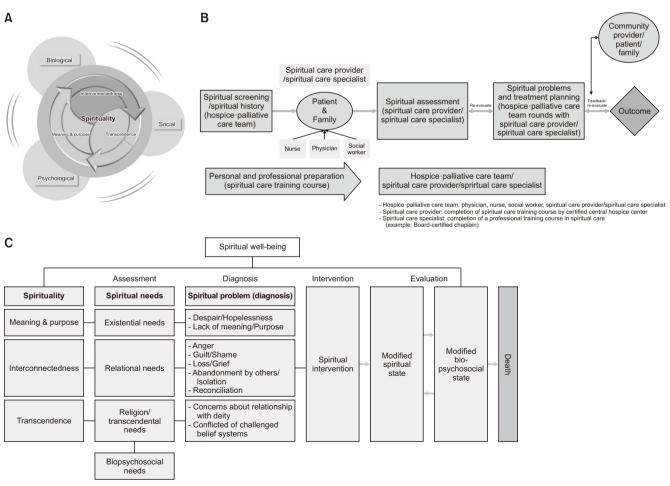


Figure 1. Spiritual care model. (A) The totality of humanity, (B) Spiritual implementation model 1, (C) Spiritual implementation model 2, (D) Spiritual implementation model 3.

Source A: Kang KA, Kim SJ, Kim DB, Park MH, Yoon SJ, Choi SE, et al. A meaning-centered spiritual care training program for hospice palliative care teams in South Korea: development and preliminary evaluation. BMC Palliative Care 2021;20:30.

Source B, D: Puchalski C, Ferrell B, Virani R, Otis-Green S, Baird P, Bull J, et al. Improving the quality of spiritual care as a dimension of palliative care: the report of the Consensus Conference. J Palliat Med 2009;12:885–904.

al needs, spiritual needs assessment (which includes screening, history, and assessment), and the role of spiritual caregivers. The remaining three concepts—spiritual care, religious care, and spiritual well-being—were specifically tailored to align with the Korean cultural context [21].

2. Principles of spiritual care

The principles of spiritual care encompass missions, goals, and standards. The three primary goals align with the attributes of spirituality, which include meaning and purpose, interconnectedness, and transcendence [4,18,22–24]. These standards have been customized for the Korean hospice and palliative care context. Notably, standards 4 and 5 incorporate the growing focus on education and training, alongside community partnerships, as integral elements of spiritual care strategies [25]. Details of these five standards are presented in reference [22] (Table 1).

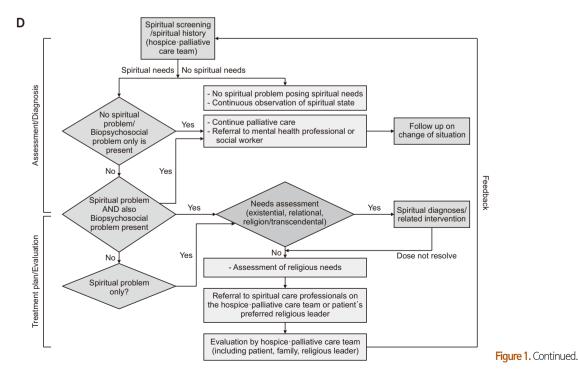
3. Spiritual care model

A "totality of human being" model has been introduced to guide spiritual care in hospice and palliative settings, aiming for comprehensive and holistic care. This model is based on the core elements of human spirituality, which include meaning and purpose, interconnectedness, and transcendence [4,18,22–

24,26].

The "Spiritual Care Implementation Process 1" delineates the comprehensive sequence from initiation to conclusion. Adapted from the "Inpatient Spiritual Care Implementation Model" developed by Puchalski et al. [27], this model has been customized to align with Korean culture and is advocated for application in community hospices and specialized facili– ties. The procedure commences with members of the HPCT performing spiritual screenings and historical inquiries with patients and their families, which is succeeded by a thorough spiritual assessment. As a result, spiritual problems are iden– tified, and intervention plans are devised. Subsequently, the results are appraised, and feedback is utilized to facilitate peri– odic reassessments. Thus, this process ought to incorporate the viewpoints of the patients, their families, and any community religious leaders they opt to include.

The "Spiritual Care Implementation Process 2" categorizes spiritual needs based on the three attributes of spirituality, identifying nine spiritual problems associated with existential, relational, and religious/transcendental needs. It then guides the establishment and implementation of plans for spiritual interventions tailored to these identified problems. Such interventions have the potential to enhance spiritual, physical, psychological, and social well-being. The overarching aim of



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spiritual care is to foster improved spiritual well-being up to the point of death.

The "Spiritual Care Implementation Process 3" is a revised and supplemented version of the models presented in this guide (Figure 1), drawing upon the spiritual diagnosis decision pathways model by Puchalski et al. [27]. This model is designed to identify spiritual problems by assessing three spiritual attributes. Specifically, it delineates the spectrum of spiritual care that the HPCT can offer, which includes the planning and execution of spiritual interventions to address existential, relational, and religious/transcendental needs. If spiritual problems persist despite the HPCT's interventions, or if patients and their families express particular religious care needs, the model includes a referral process to spiritual care specialists within the HPCT or to external religious leaders [21]. In such instances, the HPCT will facilitate a referral to a religious leader chosen by the patient for their religious care [21].

4. Spiritual care process

The spiritual care process includes a spiritual needs assessment, a spirituality-based care continuum, a form for spiritual care records, and recommended spiritual interventions. In addition, the appendix presents cases of spiritual needs, spiritual problems (diagnosis), and spiritual strengths, assisting the HPCT in the practical application of spiritual care [21].

Spiritual needs are categorized according to the attributes of human spirituality. The three stages of assessing spiritual needs go beyond merely determining whether a patient is religious. This process entails comprehending the underlying reasons or motivations that imbue a patient's life with meaning—asking, "What makes your life meaningful?" It also involves discerning what provides the patient with inner strength and comfort, prompting the question, "What gives you strength and com-

fort?" [1,28] (Table 2).

The core of spiritual care and needs assessment lies in assisting patients to recognize their spiritual strengths [14]. Thus, the entire continuum, from assessing spiritual needs to implementing interventions and evaluating outcomes, is designed to affirm and bolster the patient's spiritual strengths, ultimately fostering spiritual well-being. Existential needs related to "meaning and purpose" encompass two spiritual issues: despair and hopelessness, and a lack of meaning and purpose. Relational needs tied to "interconnectedness" cover five spiritual issues: anger, guilt and shame, loss and grief, feelings of abandonment or isolation, and the need for reconciliation. Lastly, religious and transcendental needs linked to "transcendence" involve two spiritual issues: concerns about one' s relationship with a deity and conflicted or challenged belief systems (Table 2, 3).

In addition to basic spiritual interventions (listening, prayer/ meditation, companionship, etc.), more specialized approaches like logotherapy, dignity therapy, mindfulness-based interventions, and life graphs are recommended (Table 4). The spiritual care record, designed for documenting and evaluating spirituality, is grounded in the three attributes of spirituality: meaning and purpose, interconnectedness, and transcendence. This tool facilitates the assessment and recording of spiritual diagnoses and interventions (Appendix 1). It is advised that hospice and palliative care institutions adopt this format to enhance the management of spiritual care quality.

5. Spiritual care personnel

The spiritual care guide underscores the importance of spiritual caregivers and professionals. Members of the HPCT who have completed the online spiritual care course, developed in partnership with the Korean Society for Hospice and Palliative

	Iable 2. Three Steps of Assessing Spiritual Needs.								
Division	Purpose	When	Who						
Spiritual screening	Check spiritual care needs (yes/no)	First visit	Hospice and palliative care team						
Spiritual history	Based on the attributes of spirituality, identify spiritual needs or spiritual strengths (yes/no)	First visit and periodic reassessment	Hospice and palliative care team						
Spiritual assessment	Identify spiritual strengths related to attributes of spirituality (specific questions)	Initial visit and periodic reassessments	Spiritual-care-provider/spiritual care specialist						



Spiritual needs based on spiritual attributes	Questions
1. Existential needs:	[Spiritual Strengths: The Meaning of Life]
The need to find purpose and	Key Questions
meaning in life	- What are the most important purposes (goals), values, and things that matter (or are important) in your life?
5	Additional Questions
	- What was the most rewarding (or meaningful, or well-done) thing you've ever done in your life?
	- What have you done so far, and what has it meant in your life?
	- What are your favorite traits (strengths) about yourself, and how have they helped you in your recent situation?
	- Do you have any advice or things you'd like to leave behind for your children or the next person in your life?
	[Spiritual Strengths: Seeking meaning]
	Key Questions
	- What gives you the strength to endure the current situation?
	Additional Questions
	- When you look back on your life, what do you think it was like?
	- What was the biggest crisis you've faced in your life, and what gave you the strength to get through it?
	- What has most influenced your life purpose?
	- If you lose a part of your body or a bodily function, how will it affect the meaning and purpose of (your) life?
	- How has your illness changed your life goals?
Si	piritual needs, spiritual problems (diagnosis), and spiritual strengths (examples)
Example 2	Mr. Pyeon (male/83 years old) received radiation therapy for prostate cancer. Two years later, he was diagnosed
Underline: Spiritual needs manifestation	with neuroendocrine cancer of the pancreas and was treated with chemotherapy. After the disease progressed and
Italics: Spiritual strengths	chemotherapy was discontinued, he enrolled in a home hospice program.
	He had previously worked as a local government employee and had been transferred frequently, so he was often away
	from his family when raising his two children. He expressed that he had met his wife through an arranged marriage
	and they lived together, but he has never had a deep conversation with her and does not have much affection for
	her. He doesn't have much time for hobbies or leisure outside of work, so when he thinks back on his life, he doesn't
	have many pleasant memories.
	After being diagnosed with a terminal illness, he expressed that he thought it was right to sacrifice and do his best to
	raise and feed his family when she was younger, but now he is full of regret and resentment because he has difficulty
	moving around due to lower extremity edema and is confined to his home and cannot live alone without help from
	others.
	"It's so unfair, I thought this was the way I was supposed to live, but now I look back and I don't see myself in my life, I'n
	just a slave, I'm just a person who's locked up and told what to do. I've never been happy, it feels so unfair that I've
	lived this way."
	As his illness progressed and his delirium increased, he became unable to recognize his family members and became
	aggressive, screaming "Don't lock me up! Open the door!" and became aggressive, wielding a bat, running out of the
	house and injuring himself. "There are soldiers standing guard over me, keeping an eye on me, making me do things
	<u>Please help me.</u> "
Spiritual needs identified in the case	 Existential needs: the need to find purpose and meaning in life.
	• Relational needs: the need for love, connection, and harmonious relationships with oneself and significant others.
Spiritual problems (Diagnosis)	• Lack of meaning and purpose (①)
(number: priority)	• Anger (②)
	• Despair and hopelessness (3)
The spiritual strengths of the case	• The meaning of life
(<u>underline the relevant part</u>)	Trying to find meaning
	• Love (altruistic)
	• Gratitude
	Compassion and forgiveness
	• Belief or faith
	• Tranquility
	Acceptance
	Hope for the afterlife

		Spiritual needs	Expressing s	Expressing spiritual needs				Spiritual	
spirituality property	Spiritual strengths	 ⇒ based on spirituality attributes 	Key Aspects	Example	pintual matters	Intervention goals	Spiritual intervention	assessment (6-point scale)	End result
Meaning and purpose	Meaning of life Trying to find meaning Love Gratitude Grapheress Beliefs or beliefs Tranquility Acceptance Hope for the afterlife	Existential needs • No hope for (the need to future healt find purpose • State of hop and meaning in life)	• No hope for future health and life • State of hopelessness •	 "My life is getting shorter and shorter" "There is no reason for me to live" "I don't want to live" "I don't know what lies ahead of me" 	Despair and hopelessness	Finding hope and meaning (Hope)	 Help the patient express their feelings of hopelessness and listen and empathize with them. Try to have conversations that take the weight of reality off the patient's shoulders. Help to find ways to make the patient's time count. Find something to do together that will motivate the patient's (e.g., create a bucket list). 		spiritual well-being
			 Lack of meaning Questions about the meaning of one's existence Questions about duestions about the meaning of pain Seeking spiritual help A sense of futility about one's life Falling apart. desperate attitude Apathy, indifference, depression. helplessness Expression of futility 	 "My life (my life) is meaningless" "I feel useless" "What's the point of living like this?" "It's all for nothing" "It's all for nothing" "Why do I have to be so sick?" 	Lack of meaning and purpose	Finding hope and meaning of suffering)	 Listen when the patient expresses skepticism about the value of life. Help the patient gain awareness of reality through listening and counseling. Inform the patient that their life has meaning and purpose. Provide opportunities for visits by family and friends who are meaningful to the patient. Confirm that the patient is worthy of care through warm physical support 	Find hope and meaning.	

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Care and the National Hospice Center, are qualified to act as spiritual caregivers. They are trained to carry out fundamental aspects of spiritual assessment, including screening and explorations of patients' histories. Consequently, there is a need for a consensus regarding the training and education process to cultivate competent spiritual care professionals. These professionals assist individuals in recognizing their spiritual strengths through a comprehensive spiritual assessment [27].

6. Quality management of spiritual care

The guideline recommends assessing the presence of spiritual care guide, documentation, and satisfaction surveys of bereaved families for the quality management of spiritual care [29].

CONCLUSION

Developing a universally applicable and feasible spiritual care guide for all hospice and palliative care institutions in Korea has been challenging due to the diversity in working conditions and personnel support systems. As an initial version, this guide will necessitate ongoing revisions and enhancements to achieve full applicability in hospice and palliative care practices. The development of this guide will continue through future Delphi surveys and input from regional spiritual care experts, aiming to provide spiritual care that is both culturally attuned to Korean sensibilities and practically implementable. As a result, spiritual care will not only be an integral part of hospice and palliative care institutions but also in medical settings that provide end-of-life care, thereby enhancing the spiritual wellbeing and quality of life for patients and their families and making a significant contribution to the overall quality of care.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

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AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTIONS

Conception or design of the work: all authors. Data collection: all authors. Data analysis and interpretation: all authors. Drafting the article: KAK, JC. Critical revision of the article: all authors. Final approval of the version to be published: KAK, JC.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

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Appendix 1. Spiritual Care Record (Recommended).

	Spiritual Care Record							
1 Desisinformed	tion.							
. Basic informat				NI-	1	Carril A ana		
Patient name				No		Sex/Age		
Diagnosis								
. Spiritual inform	mation							
Religious					Won-Buddhism □Othe			
Religion	Importance		_	1	derate 🗌 Not importan			
		n in activities		,	□Sometimes □Seld	om 🗌 Other		
		religious groups	· ·	gh □Moderat	e 🗆 Low			
No religion		out religion		s □No				
	Desired reli	0	□Ca		,	Won-Buddhism □Othe		
	1	ritual resources	□Ye	-	-	ff 🗌 Supreme being/Nati		
Religion of prima	ary caregiver		□ Ye □ No		□Christianity □Budo	hism 🗆 Won-Buddhism	□ Other)	
. Spiritual scree		spiritual care ne	eds	Yes N				
What kind of he	,	110:			o Spiritual conversation	Consultation		
what kind of he	ip do you need :			-	ritual □Prayer/Meditat			
				0	ition/Meaningful prepara)	
. Spiritual histo	rv: Identify sp	iritual needs or s	piritual	strengths bas	ed on spirituality			
Do you think you			1		·····	□Yes □No		
		io are always willing	1 to help?			□Yes □No		
		strength and comfo		w?		□Yes □No		
	· · ·	Int to do (a wish)?	rengnene			Yes No		
					I			
. Spiritual asses	sment: Ident	ify spiritual stren	aths rela	ated to spiritu	ality (specific questic	ns)		
Spiritual strengt		☐ Meaning in life	-	•		,		
opinicial scienge		□ Love(Altruistic) □ Gratitude □ Compassion and forgivenes						
		Belief or faith Peace Acceptance Hope for an afterlife						
		Others (
			,					
. Spiritual Probl	em (diaanosi	s)						
Spiritual probler			elessness	□Lack of me	aning/nurnose			
opintual probler	n (alagnosis)		elessness					
		□ Concerns about relationship with deity □ Conflicted or challenged belief systems						
						ged belief systems		
. Spiritual inter	vention							
Spiritual interve	ntion		Listening Spiritual conversation/Consultation					
		Religious ritual Prayer/Meditation Will/Donation/Meaningful preparation						
		\Box Recommended Spiritual Interventions (Logotherapy/dignity therapy/						
		Mindfulness bas	sed interv	ention/Lifegrap	bh) □Others ()		
Subjective state	ments:							

8. Spiritual well-being evaluation

1) Evaluation of spiritual interventions based on 9 spiritual problems (diagnosis)

	Spiritual problem (diagnosis)	Goal	Evaluation	Not at all	A little bit	Somewhat	Quite a bit	A great deal	Does not apply
1	Despair/ Hopelessness	Finding hope and meaning (Hope)	Regain motivation through hope and finding meaning.						
2	Lack of meaning/ Purpose	Finding hope and meaning (Meaning of suffering)	Find hope and rewarding meaning.						
3	Anger	Love and Restoring relationships (Gratitude)	Restore love and relationships through gratitude.						
4	Guilt/Shame	Love and Restoring relationships (Forgiveness)	Restore love and relationships through forgiveness.						
5	Loss/Grief	Love and Restoring relationships (Acceptance of reality)	Restore love and relationships through acceptance of reality						
6	Abandonment by others/ Isolation	Love and Restoring relationships (Bonding)	Restore love and relationships through having a bond.						
7	Reconciliation	Love and Restoring relationships (Reconciliation)	Restore love and relationships through reconciliation.						
8	Concerns about relationship with deity	Restoration of relationship with God (Hope)	Restore love and relationships through finding hope.						
9	Conflicted or challenged belief systems	Hope for an afterlife	Restore love and relationships through having hope for an afterlife.						

2) Comprehensive evaluation: Final outcome after spiritual intervention, "Improvement in spiritual well-being"

Attributes of spirituality		ltems	Not at all	Somewhat	A great deal	Does not apply
Meaning and purpose	1	I have meaning and purpose in life.				
	2	My life has been a positive experience.				
Interconnectedness	3	I am satisfied with my life and the life around me.				
	4	I want to share love and forgiveness.				
	5	I want to have a good relationship.				
Transcendence	6	I am in a harmonious relationship with my beliefs/faith.				
	7	I take comfort in my beliefs/faith.				
	8	I am finishing my life well.				

Record date: Signature: