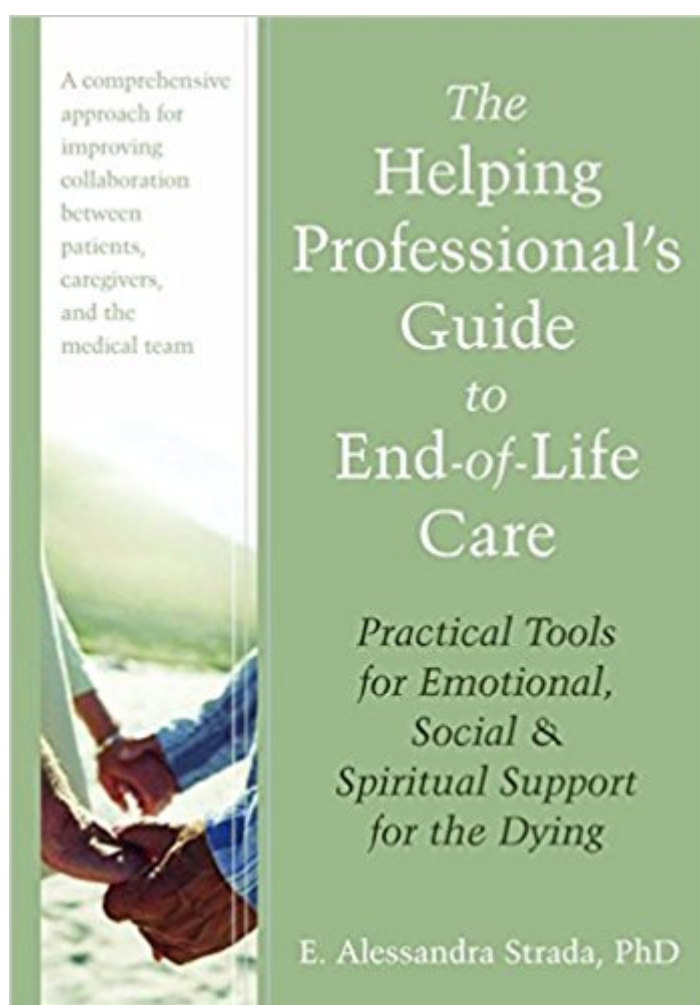


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# The Helping Professional's Guide To End-of-Life Care: Practical Tools For Emotional, Social, And Spiritual Support For The Dying



## Synopsis

Nearly half of people at the end of life will receive hospice care, but few psychologists, nurses, physicians, chaplains, and hospice workers have been trained specifically to recognize and address the psychological, social, and emotional issues that may arise in patients who are dying. Patients in the midst of advanced terminal illness may experience a variety of distressing emotions, and may feel anxious, frightened, regretful, or desperate. This guide was created specifically to guide helping professionals of all kinds through the process of working through patients' psychological issues to allow them peace and comfort in their final moments. The Helping Professional's Guide to End-of-Life Care clarifies the spiritual and emotional care that patients need and presents an evidence-based approach integrating cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), transpersonal psychotherapy, hypnosis, mindfulness, and guided imagery to help patients manage emotional distress at the end of life. Through case conceptualizations and detailed treatment planning guidance, readers learn to formulate comprehensive assessment and treatment plans for patients and gain skills that will help them manage the emotional intensity of this work. This secular, professional treatment model can be applied to patients of any religious or spiritual background. The book also addresses integrating the patient's therapeutic team with the medical team, addressing the emotional needs of friends and family of the dying, crisis intervention for suicidal patients, working with clients on psychotropic medications, and how helping professionals can manage their own emotions to become more effective clinicians.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This book is a gift from an inspiring and extremely skillful psychologist and palliative care practitioner. E. Alessandra Strada provides clinicians with the information, attitudes, insights, and skills needed to provide more effective, competent, and compassionate care to patients and their family members who are facing advancing disease. Her writing style models the clarity and compassion that is essential to guide all clinicians to help provide optimal end-of-life care." --William Breitbart, MD, chairman of the department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY "A deeply compassionate book. Strada speaks from the heart and from her extensive experience as a psychologist. Her words point toward a path of healing--for the dying, for their loved ones, and for those professionals who accompany them on their journey." --James Hallenbeck, MD, author of "Palliative Care Perspectives" "Comprehensive and inspirational. Strada provides real-life examples in a way that encourages both self-reflection and development. A must-have book for members of the palliative care team."--Serife Eti, MD, program director of the Fellowship in Hospice and Palliative Medicine in the department of pain medicine and palliative care at Beth Israel Medical Center, New York, NY

E. Alessandra Strada, PhD, FT, MSCP, is an adjunct associate professor at the California Institute of Integral Studies, and adjunct faculty in the post-doctoral psychopharmacology program at Alliant University, San Francisco. She is a staff psychologist at Mendocino Coast Hospital and a fellow in thanatology. In addition, she is a former assistant professor of neurology and psychiatry at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and attending psychologist in the department of pain medicine and palliative care at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City, where she developed and directed the psychology fellowship in pain, palliative, and hospice care. Her clinical work and research focus on psychological care in advanced illness, end-of-life, grief, bereavement in the palliative care setting, and chronic pain. She has worked extensively to promote stress management and burnout prevention for clinicians. Her treatment approaches include integrative use of psychodynamic, existential, and insight-oriented approaches with cognitive behavioral therapy, hypnosis, guided imagery, mindfulness, and meditation. She lives in Northern California.

I am going to recommend this book to all my social work students who want to work in palliative care. I think it is a great book to learn about the literature, but also to develop the qualities of a good clinician. I saw the author present at a conference last October and I also loved her presentation. My husband who is a nurse also loved the book.

End of life is a true mystery for many, and Dr. Strada had done an excellent job of giving us lay people tools to help with patients and families during the dying process. I highly recommend the material covered in this presentation book.

I loved this book, because the information is evidence based, yet it does not use jargon or overly academic language. It speaks directly to the clinician during a lecture or case presentation. It encourages the clinician to develop a very valuable mindful approach to the work. As an academic who also does clinical work, I found this book to be an excellent resource, for both new clinicians and experienced ones. The author clearly has a lot of clinical experience and knows what she is talking about. Remarkable work for a single author. Probably the best book on the topic I have read in a while.

In a world of suffering this resource pinpoints the responsibilities needed in taking care of people unable to deal with the changes life has brought them. An excellent source for the person preparing to enter palliative care.

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