

End-Of-Life Doula Core Competencies

End-of-life doulas demonstrate proficiency, competency, and familiarity in the following core competency areas:

COMMUNICATION AND INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

EOLDs cultivate effective communications skills and techniques to share with the patient, family, and other providers. They also learn how to advocate for their clients in ways that are supportive and respectful of all parties involved.

EOLDs collaborate effectively and build key relationships with personnel from care facilities, nursing homes, hospices, and hospitals, and learn how to navigate these systems. They use critical thinking and creative problem solving skills when working with clients and families.

PROFESSIONALISM

EOLDs comport themselves professionally in the workplace, know how to care for themselves while caring for others, and actively seek opportunities to improve skills and understanding in the field. They also tend to practical business matters, such as liability insurance, reporting, documentation, and effectively and accurately representing themselves. EOLDs who choose to pursue hospice partnerships are conversant with Hospice Medicare Conditions of Participation for Volunteers.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

EOLDs support caregivers by providing care and comfort, respite assistance, household services, vigil presence, ceremonial support, bereavement follow-up, and any other means of tending to the caregiver when assisting them in caring for the dying.

EOLDs support the dying by providing non-medical care in the chosen forms of comfort modalities, conscious dying guidance, spiritual support, and any other means of tending to the well-being of the individual. They are knowledgeable about the needs of the dying, patient's rights, and the basic clinical care that is being provided by medical personnel.

EOLDs assist clients and others involved in developing an initial care plan that includes use of online management tools, paper forms, calendars, and other ways of organizing patient and family care, funeral plans, logistics and access, timeframes, and other essential planning needs.

EOLDs possess essential technical knowledge in the areas of legal issues, medical protocols, basic safety precautions, medically-assisted dying and voluntary stopping of eating and drinking. They are knowledgeable about the needs of special populations and to cultural and spiritual needs and expectations.

VALUES AND ETHICS

EOLDs know and respect their roles and responsibilities as defined in the NEDA Mission Statement, Scope of Practice, and Code of Ethics, present themselves in a manner consistent with known and accepted ethical conduct and values when in the field, and work within the Doula Model of Care.