

New book looks at LGBTQ-inclusive hospice and palliative care

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Written by Kimberly D. Acquaviva, *LGBTQ-Inclusive Hospice and Palliative Care* is a practical guide to transforming professional practice. Anchored in the evidence, extensively referenced, and written in clear, easy-to-understand language, *LGBTQ-Inclusive Hospice and Palliative Care* provides clear, actionable strategies for hospice and palliative care physicians, nurses, social workers, counselors, and chaplains.

"This book could not be more timely ... [It] provides in-depth yet user-friendly cultural competency lessons [and] tips for all the major steps recommended for institutional change." - Sherrill Wayland, Manager of National Projects, SAGE (Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders)

Dr. Acquaviva has presented at national conferences on this important topic and in an article for the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, she wrote: "'Meeting patients where they are' is easy when their lives look similar to yours, but what about when their lives look much different? How do you ensure that you meet all your patients where they are, without prejudice or judgment? If a lesbian patient is admitted to your hospice or palliative care program, do your personal theories (e.g., 'she must have turned gay because of a bad experience with a man') and religious beliefs (e.g., 'homosexuality is an abomination') end up influencing the way you treat that patient? How can you know for sure that they don't? These are the questions you need to be asking. Coming up with answers to these questions is just as hard as answering questions about the origins of homosexuality, but infinitely more valuable in terms of ensuring the provision of high-quality end-of-life care."

About the author: Kimberly Acquaviva is a tenured faculty member at the George Washington University School of Nursing. She is a Certified Sexuality Educator (CSE) through AASECT (American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists).

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