

You are cordially invited to the fall **Pastoral Skills Seminar**  
Sponsored by the Department of Studies in Jewish Pastoral Care  
*HealthCare Chaplaincy*

## Helping Your Congregant Make End-of-Life Decisions

One of the most challenging questions rabbis receive from their congregants today is – “Rabbi, should I sign a DNR; Mom is being admitted to the hospital?” The national healthcare debate illustrated that making decisions about end-of-life care is a painful one for families, the medical community and as a public policy concern. This three-session seminar will explore this topic from the perspectives of a rabbi, palliative care physician, and a psychologist. Its objective is to enhance your pastoral skills as a rabbi/cantor.

### **November 9 Jewish and Other Sources on Life and Death – Rabbi Charles Sheer**

Rabbi Sheer - Director, Department of Studies in Jewish Pastoral Education, HealthCare Chaplaincy - will review classical Jewish writings about death and healing. Topics will include what is a “good death,” sickness and the obligation of “pikuah nefesh (saving a life),” and praying for the death of the gravely ill. He will also present documents that rabbis should be familiar with, such as the Patient Self Determination Act, versions of living wills and healthcare proxies developed by Jewish, legal and healthcare organizations.

### **November 16 The Role of Palliative Medicine – Dr. Gabrielle Goldberg**

Dr. Goldberg is Education Director, The Lilian and Benjamin Hertzberg Palliative Care Institute, Assistant Professor, Departments of Geriatrics and Internal Medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. She will discuss developments in modern medicine that rabbis should know to assist congregants making end-of-life decisions. Topics to include: DNR, PVS and coma, the role of palliative medicine and hospice care.

### **November 23 The Rabbi and the Family – Dr. David Pelcovitz**

Dr. Pelcovitz holds the Straus Chair in Psychology and Jewish Education at Yeshiva University; served for over two decades as Director of Psychology at North Shore University Hospital-NYU School of Medicine, and Clinical Professor of Psychology in Psychiatry, at NYU School of Medicine. He will discuss the psychological issues that families face in making end-of-life decisions. What are the various factors – the existing family dynamics, interpersonal and religious issues – that impact this decision, and how might you assist your family and community when they encounter this challenge?

HealthCare Chaplaincy sponsors this seminar each semester for students from the following seminaries – AJR, HUC-JIR, JTS, YCT and YU. A maximum of 25 students may participate.

There is no tuition: a \$25 registration fee is required.

Each presentation is preceded by a buffet dinner.

Students are expected to attend all three sessions.

Three Monday evenings: November 9, 16 and 23, 2009. 6 – 8 PM.

The seminar takes place at HealthCare Chaplaincy  
307 E. 60th Street (at 2nd Avenue; one block from #6 subway stop)

E-registration required by Monday, November 3.

Questions? [jsilva@healthcarechaplancy.org](mailto:jsilva@healthcarechaplancy.org)

212-644-1111 (x233)

This seminar, since its inception, has been sustained by a generous grant from  
The Judy & Michael Steinhardt Foundation.

#### **Rabbi Charles Sheer**

Director, Department of Studies in Jewish Pastoral Care  
HealthCare Chaplaincy

**For more information, please visit our website [healthcarechaplancy.org](http://healthcarechaplancy.org)**

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