

# CHAPLAINCY AND SPIRITUAL CARE

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## SUMMARY

This chapter considers the profession of chaplaincy and the role that chaplains have in providing spiritual care within clinical and community settings, with an emphasis on their collaboration with other allied health clinicians. Although chaplaincy spiritual care services occur across a broad range of healthcare areas, this chapter primarily considers three specialist areas of chaplaincy that cover the human lifespan, namely, pediatric chaplaincy, mental healthcare chaplaincy and aged care chaplaincy.

## INTRODUCTION: CHAPLAINCY PAST AND PRESENT

From time immemorial priests, imams, rabbis, ministers, pastors, monks, nuns, or other such bestowed chaplains and/or spiritual carers have been formally designated, trained and commissioned to undertake religious, pastoral and spiritual care within healthcare institutions and community health contexts. Despite increasing secularization and the dominance of the biomedical model throughout the Western world (Willis 1989), there has been accumulative literature both affirming and challenging medical physicians (Peach 2003; Puchalski 2001) and/or nurses (e.g. Ormsby and Harrington 2003; Timmins & Neil 2013), to adopt a person-centered holistic approach by considering their client/patient's spiritual/religious issues, including making referrals "to practitioners such as a chaplain, psychologist, or social