

Diagnostic Clinician, Practitioner and Facilitator Competencies

This document contains suggestions made by attendees, board member(s) and presenters during meetings of the Training and Education Committee (TAE), End-of-Life Care (EOLC) and Patient Qualification and Safety (PQS) Committees.

Purpose of the Training and Education Committee's Framework

- Create safe, ethical, and culturally respectful education and training
- Support public health, community well-being, and accountability
- Align with New Mexico Department of Health advisory standards
- Prepare for evolving law, research, and practice

Competency Suggestions

- **History and cultural context of psilocybin**
 - Indigenous and ceremonial uses of psilocybin-containing mushrooms
 - Spiritual, sacramental, and contemplative frameworks across cultures
 - Impact of colonization, criminalization, and prohibition
 - Contemporary medical, spiritual, and decriminalization movements
 - Ethical issues related to cultural and spiritual appropriation
- **Pharmacology**
 - Dosing ranges
 - Pharmacokinetics
- **Neuroscience and Psychology**
 - Neurobiology of psilocybin
 - Effects on perception, emotion, cognition, spirituality, and sense of self
 - Therapeutic and meaning-making mechanisms (e.g., neuroplasticity, insight, existential processing)
- **Mental health and spiritual care applications**
 - Depression, anxiety, PTSD, end-of-life distress, addiction, trauma, moral injury, and existential suffering
 - Current research evidence and limitations
 - Interfaces between psychotherapy, spiritual counseling, cultural, and pastoral care

- **Safety planning protocols, screening and risk awareness & assessment**
 - Psychological and medical contraindications
 - Medication interactions
 - Physical health considerations/exclusions
 - Prepare participants for challenging experiences
 - Set realistic expectations
 - Prepare patient's support system matrix
 - Clinical challenges and crisis response basics
 - Referral pathways between clinical, medical, and spiritual care providers
 - Emergency response plan
 - Enhanced emergency response capabilities when necessary (rural and frontier settings)
- **Ethics, consent and power dynamics**
 - Informed consent models across clinical and non-clinical roles
 - Dual relationships and boundary management
 - Vulnerability during non-ordinary and spiritually significant states
 - Consent for touch, preferences, within ethical boundaries
 - Supportive touch
 - Safety touch
 - Consent agreements (withdrawing consent)
- **Psilocybin Informed Consent**
 - Requires direct discussion, not satisfied by written acknowledgement
 - Risks, benefits, uncertainties, altered states of consciousness, impaired decision-making
 - Nature of termination services
- **Legal and regulatory overview (NM – module)**
 - NM Medical Psilocybin Act
 - Emerging state-regulated programs
 - Federal vs. state law considerations
 - Professional licensing, ordination, and institutional accountability implications
 - Documentation and reporting requirements (as applicable)
- **Safety Equipment- Basic mandatory equipment and how to use, including:**
 - Blood pressure monitoring equipment
 - Pulse oximeter

- First aid kit
 - Familiar with treatment protocols for pain (common co-occurring with mental health)
 - Multi-lingual, including ASL
 - Preparation skills
 - Establishing trust and alliance within role boundaries
 - Psychoeducation and expectation setting
 - Cultural, spiritual, and existential preparation considerations
- **Facilitation and Support**
 - Presence, non-directive support, and attunement
 - Managing challenging psychological or spiritual experiences
 - Somatic, grounding and trauma-informed techniques
- **Integration support**
 - Scope of practice boundaries
 - Translate experiences into meaningful change
 - Process insights and emotions
 - Confidentiality and documentation
 - Power, transference, countertransference, and spiritual authority
- **HIPAA, Patient Privacy, and Working with PHI**
 - Privacy protection standards established under HIPAA and HITECH
 - Legal obligations and permitted disclosure
 - Minimum Necessary Standard
 - Patient Notification

End-of-Life Care (Endorsement)

The End-of-Life Psychedelic Care core competencies will be developed as a distinct and specialized set of requirements complementing, rather than duplicating the competencies outlined in most Psychedelic Care Training Programs. This separation ensures clarity of purpose and supports a more comprehensive and integrated training framework.

Education and Workforce Development as presented by Dr. Larry Leeman

- Recognize that end-of-life psychedelic therapy may be viewed through palliative, hospice care, and cultural perspectives.
- Support expansive timeframes, including from the time of diagnosis of serious, terminal, or life limiting medical conditions, or from the time of recognition that end of life is approaching due to the natural aging process.
- Support education and workforce development related to psilocybin-assisted therapy for End-of-Life Care.
- This model recognizes End-of-Life is not a single moment.
- This model is distinct from, but may be complementary to, hospice care when appropriate.
- End-of-Life Psychedelic Assisted Care differs from other indications as being a stage of life and not a disease diagnosis
- End-of-Life Care is distinct from disease-based indications, as it represents a life process rather than a diagnosis
- End-of-Life Care will include training for In-Home Environments, recognizing that many End-of-Life Care clients may:
 - Prefer to remain in familiar surroundings
 - May have limited mobility
 - Desire the presence of family, caregivers and spiritual supports
 - All roles are trained to operate in non-clinical environments, with emphasis on:
 - Safety
 - Emergency Preparedness
 - Environmental readiness
 - Clear role boundaries
 - Coordination with family and caregivers
- Psilocybin-informed care basics
- Code of Ethics specific to End-of-Life psychedelic care
- Supporting Psychedelic-Assisted Care at End-of Life (SPACE) Attendant Role
 - Provides continuous, grounded presence and relational support throughout the care process, supporting the licensed Lead Practitioner, the client, and any family members or designated support persons present.
 - The SPACE Program is also envisioned as a pathway for practicum experience and ongoing mentorship within the emerging psychedelic-assisted therapy (PAT) and end-of-life PAC workforce.
 - It is intended as a meaningful place for trained facilitators and aspiring practitioners to give back, volunteer, and continue practical learning alongside experienced colleagues.
 - Completion of SPACE attendant training

- Completion of a psychedelic sitter / peer support training
- Supervised practicum or direct experience in care settings (preferred)
- Relational and Emotional Support training
- Boundaries and scope of role training
- In-Home care dynamics training
- Completion of state-required certification (e.g., NM EOL PAC training)