Meeting Patients’ Psychological Needs

Dr. Rhoda Yuen
Counseling Psychologist
The Salvation Army & HK Association of Gerontology
Palliative Care in Residential Care Home for the Elderly
What are Patients’ Psychological Needs?

• Need to be WHOLE
• With a past, present and future
• With own personality & world view
• Unique relationship with self & others
What are Patients’ Psychological Needs?

They need to be:

• recognized
• respected
• accepted
How to Meet Their Needs?

- **Communicate** to understand their life stories
  - Madam L, 105 years old
  - Ca Rectum, Dementia
How to Meet Their Needs?

• **Connect** to help enhance their quality of life

• Madam L
  105 years old; Ca Rectum, Dementia
• Madam S
98 years old; mixed dementia; lung shadow
How to Meet Their Needs?

• **Directly address** issues to assure quality of death

• Madam L

• 105 years old; Ca Rectum, Dementia
How to Meet Their Needs?

- Madam Y
- 103 years old; Heart Failure, Pleura Effusion; HT; DM
第一百廿一篇
上行之音。我蒙山作曲的恩惠，
你的耶和华啊，必不叫你的脚摇动；保护你的必不摇
不丢弃与你同在的。耶和华是保护你的，是保护你免受一切的苦。他保护你的性命；
他用恩惠慈爱保护你。我寄居在
你们的恩惠里；正照在你的慈爱中，如南国的大海。
What they really need

Each one of them is a whole person
like you and me
They are not our care objects
They need our companioning
Being with them
without judgment, advice, expectation
Offering our presence
with humility and gratitude