Pastoral reflective practice for healthcare chaplains

PRP level 1:

For chaplains who are keen to enhance their pastoral and reflective skills as part of their own personal and professional development and to deepen theological dimensions of their work/ministry and (thereby) improve their provision of spiritual care.

Course modes: In order to provide maximum flexibility the course is offered in several modes

- **Intensive:** A full-time block of 10 days completed in two parts (80 hours) at the Centre.

Each mode includes facilitated learning and reflection based on material presented from participant’s practice within his/her own hospital setting.
This course will provide participants with the opportunity to develop in terms of their personal identity (becoming more of who they are/have been called to be); their pastoral/professional identity (their role and work as chaplains) and spiritual identity (their relationship with God within their particular faith tradition).

I find PRP very helpful: I am genuinely surprised at what can be learned from ‘chewing over’ even a very short encounter… I feel more prepared for working with patients in a range of contexts and it has been invaluable to learn from those with more experience and insight in different pastoral situations. (Quote from a volunteer chaplain)

PRP is a brilliant way to put into practice what you learn straight away. It is applied, relevant, stimulating, challenging and stretching and I would encourage anyone who has the time to do this to sign up straight away. (Quote from a student chaplain)

Course content:

- **Level 1**: regular PRP group (facilitated); 1:1 supervision; video work; guided reading; presentation and reflection of pastoral experience; project or essay; exploration of key theological themes

**Core themes**: The nature of hope; the question of suffering (theodicy and providence); grief and loss; mental health & illness; communicating without words; ministering in a religious and secular environment; conflict and difference; group process; institutional dynamics.

**Ongoing PRP groups**:

Presentation and reflection on pastoral experience including key theological themes: the question of suffering; the nature of hope; grief and loss; what is mental ‘health’?...

**Assessment** will be flexible according to individual needs, but will include: self-evaluation, feedback based on PRP; presentation of clinical material; individual supervision; verbatims and video work.

I have found PRP really valuable: it helps me to consider what might be going on at ‘deeper levels’ with people and to discern how God is at work, however that is expressed (Quote from a Chaplain).

**Verbatim accounts, journaling, and other methods of theological reflection**
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