



INITIATIVE ON
ISLAM AND MEDICINE

Islamic Dimensions of End-of-Life Healthcare:
A Community Education Workshop Replication Guide

About this Manual

This manual is designed to help you plan and replicate a **religiously-tailored, educational workshop** on End-of-Life Healthcare within Muslim community settings. Grounded in Islamic bioethics and informed by U.S. healthcare practices, this guide empowers community leaders and stakeholders facilitate compassionate, religiously informed conversations around serious illness and decision-making towards End-of-Life Healthcare in a safe community-based setting.

How to Use

This manual provides suggested materials and instructions needed to organize a successful End-of-Life Healthcare workshop, including:

- Planning guidelines and timelines
- Recommended content and case studies
- Outreach and marketing strategies
- Sample agendas and advertising materials
- Evaluation tools and feedback mechanisms

It can be adapted based on the needs, language, and literacy levels of your local community.

Who Should Lead These Workshops?

Workshops should be led by individuals who are:

- Familiar with End-of-Life Healthcare topics (clinical and/or religious)
- Trusted within their communities and comfortable facilitating group discussion
- Culturally and religiously concordant with proposed audience (e.g., community members, religious leaders, Muslim clinicians, public health workers, and other stakeholders)

We recommend forming a planning team that brings together the diverse expertise that is needed (see “Planning Committee” section).

Updating Materials

Before delivering a community workshop, it is recommended to update any links, resources, or statistics that may be outdated, irrelevant, or not working. Additionally, our workshop was created using data on general community knowledge gaps, and you may need to adapt it to fit your specific community.

Citation

This replication guide should be cited when conducting the program and all materials used. If presenters use excerpts from sessions, please cite the specific session title as well.

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Background Information

End-of-Life Healthcare in the Muslim Community: Addressing Gaps in Understanding and Support

Navigating End-of-Life Healthcare can be particularly challenging for Muslim Americans, as it involves balancing complex U.S. legal frameworks with deeply held Islamic values and principles. Many Muslims remain in the '*pre-contemplation*' phase, meaning they have not yet engaged in End-of-Life Healthcare planning for themselves or their loved ones.¹ This lack of early consideration and thinking often results in decisional conflicts and emotional distress when faced with sudden terminal state-type scenarios. Several factors contribute to these issues:

- **Cultural and Religious Sensitivities:** Discussing or planning for death may feel uncomfortable, as it involves anticipating the loss of a loved one or one's own demise. Some may also perceive such planning as conflicting with Islamic values, such as the emphasis on preserving life and the belief that the timing of one's death is predetermined by Allah [SWT].
- **Lack of Knowledge:** Many Muslims are unfamiliar with End-of-Life Healthcare terminology and legal tools, such as advance directives, living wills, and Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) orders. This lack of awareness and knowledge can lead to uncertainty, hesitancy, and difficulties in decision-making.
- **Concerns About Religious Accommodations:** Muslim families often worry about discrimination or inadequate religious accommodations within Hospice and Palliative Care programs, such as access to prayer spaces, dietary considerations, and modesty-related requirements (e.g., gender-concordant care).

Muslims and End-of-Life Decision-Making

This workshop educates Muslim Americans on Islamic bioethical perspectives and U.S. healthcare laws and practices related to End-of-Life Healthcare thus fostering understandings and support needed religiously-aligned decision-making.

Islam offers both spiritual and ethical guidance for navigating End-of-Life Healthcare. The Qur'an and Sunnah provide principles that help Muslims approach these decisions with timeless

¹ Yunus, R.M., Duivenbode, R. and Padela, A.I., 2024. American muslim engagement with advance care planning: insights from a community survey. *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine®*, 41(4), pp.405-413.

wisdom, trust in Allah, and a sense of responsibility towards themselves and their loved ones. Increased knowledge and awareness empower Muslims to make informed decisions that reflect their religious values. Accordingly, this guide aims to help you conduct a workshop that provides:

- **Practical steps** for preparing advance directives and understanding key medical decisions.
- **Educational resources** to clarify the intersection of Islamic principles and U.S. healthcare practices and laws.
- **Religiously aligned strategies** to help individuals and families navigate these sensitive discussions based on **Sunni *madhāhib***.

Being proactive ensures that End-of-Life Healthcare decisions align with both Islamic principles and practical healthcare needs, thereby reducing stress on loved ones.

Our Iterative Design and Implementation Project (Our Journey)

This guide emerged from over a decade of multidisciplinary research, community engagement, and Islamic ethical scholarship focused on improving End-of-Life Healthcare for Muslim patients and families. It draws upon findings from literature reviews, community-based surveys, qualitative interviews, workshops, and fatwa research related to healthcare decision-making.

From 2014 to 2024, we have conducted 9 community-facing workshops related to Islamic Bioethics and End-of-Life Healthcare involving healthcare professionals, religious scholars, chaplains, and community leaders. These workshops and settings are noted below.

-
- 2014 at **Taqua Academy** in Plano, Texas in partnership with **Taqua Academy**, **MacLean Center for Medical Ethics** at the University of Chicago, and **Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America (APPNA)**
- 2015 at **Islamic Center of San Gabriel Valley** in Rowland Heights, California
- 2016 at **IIIT** in Herndon, Virginia in partnership with **IIIT**, **Chicago Medical Society (CMS)**, and **The Fairfax Institute**
- 2017 at **Islamic Resource Center** in Greenfield, Wisconsin in partnership with **Milwaukee Muslim Women's Association**, **Muslim Community Health Center (MCHC)**, **Islamic Society of Milwaukee**, and **Chicago Medical Society**

- 2018 at **ADAMS Center** in Washington D.C.
- 2019 at **Islamic Foundation North** in Libertyville, Illinois
- 2019 at **Muslim Educational Center** in Morton Grove, IL.
- 2022 at **Institute of Knowledge** in Diamond Bar, California in partnership with the **Institute of Knowledge, Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA), Islamic Shura Council of Southern California, and UMMA Community Clinic**
- 2023 at **Islamic Society of Milwaukee** in Brookfield, Wisconsin in partnership with **Islamic Society of Milwaukee, Medical College of Wisconsin, Clinical and Translational Science Institute of Southeastern Wisconsin (CTSI), and Muslim Community Health Center (MCHC)**

Based on feedback from instructors, attendees, and hosts, we iterated over workshop content and instructional modalities to improve knowledge gain and decisional preparedness. Indeed success of these events has shown that **community-based, religiously-aligned education** is critical for promoting dignity, trust, and proactive decision-making at life's end.

TAQUA Academy
in concert with
The Initiative on Islam and Medicine and
the MacLean Center for Medical Ethics at
The University of Chicago
present

Islamic Bioethics & End-of-Life Care: A Practical Workshop

Saturday May 17th, 9 am -2 pm
TAQUA Academy
6401 Independence Pkwy – Plano, TX

Hosts

- Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America (APPNA)
- Crescent Hospice Home Health
- Dr. Mohamed Basheer Khan
- Dr. Zahid Zafar
- Dr. Osman Ali
- Dr. Umar Khan
- Sr. Alia Salem, CAIR-DFW
- Dr. Shahrukh Kureishy
- Imam Zia Sheikh

Islamic Center of San Gabriel Valley
in concert with
The Initiative on Islam and Medicine at
The University of Chicago
present

Islamic Bioethics & End-of-Life Care: A Practical Workshop

February 14, 2015 ♦ 9 AM–3:30 PM

Islamic Center of San Gabriel Valley
19164 E. Walnut Dr. – North Rowland Heights, CA

Register at pmr.uchicago.edu/iim-california
Questions? Contact medrelig@uchicago.edu
Early registration ends on February 9th. Limited onsite registrations.

Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition
The Initiative on Islam and Medicine at the University of Chicago
and
The Chicago Medical Society
present

Islamic Bioethics & End-of-Life Care: A Practical Workshop

Sat. Sept. 9th
9:00am – 2:30pm
Islamic Resource Center
5235 S. 27th Street – Greenfield, Wisconsin

Logos: INITIATIVE ON ISLAM AND MEDICINE THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, MMWC Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition, CMS CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY, ISM, HRIAT, MCHC

25UMMA YEARS OF SERVICE, INSTITUTE OF KNOWLEDGE, imana, ISLAMIC ETHICS CENTER

GIFTING LIFE? ACCEPTING DEATH?

ISLAMIC REFLECTIONS ON THE ETHICS AND PRACTICES OF 'MEDICALIZED' DYING

SATURDAY | JANUARY 8TH | 6-8 PM
INSTITUTE OF KNOWLEDGE | 1009 VIA SORELLA, DIAMOND BAR, CA 91789

Aasim I. Padela, MD, MSc, FACEP
Medical College of Wisconsin, Professor and Vice Chair for Research and Scholarship.
This lecture will focus on the moral choices individuals face when approaching death in modern society, specifically those surrounding organ donation and withdrawal or withholding life support.

The talk will be divided into three parts: (i) a theological reflection on preparing for death and its importance in the modern era; (ii) Islamic ethico-legal conceptions regarding organ donation and withholding life-support; (iii) rubrics and paradigms to employ when faced with decisions for loved ones nearing the end-of-life.

1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™
This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint provider of the Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA) and The Initiative on Islam and Medicine and UMMA Clinic. IMANA is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

IMANA designates this live educational activity for a maximum of 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. Each physician should claim credit only for the time actually spent in the educational activity.

FREE REGISTRATION *DINNER INCLUDED
UMMAIOK.EVENTBRITE.COM

ACCME ACCREDITED WITH COMMENDATION

BOOK SIGNING
Medicine and Shariah

International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT)
and The Fairfax Institute
in concert with
The Initiative on Islam and Medicine at
The University of Chicago
and in conjunction with
The Chicago Medical Society
present

Islamic Bioethics & End-of-Life Care: A Practical Workshop

Sat Nov 12th, 9am – 12:30pm
IIIT Seminar Room
500 Grove Street – Herndon, Virginia

Logos: INITIATIVE ON ISLAM AND MEDICINE THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, CMS CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY, IIIT International Institute of Islamic Thought, THE FAIRFAX INSTITUTE

Questions? Contact initiative.islam.medicine@gmail.com.

Preparing for a Workshop in your Mosque/Community

Planning

A successful workshop begins with intentional preparation, collaboration, and sensitivity to your community's religious, cultural, and emotional needs.

- 1. Defining Objectives.** Clarify what the learning goals the workshop aims to achieve. This can be done by informal conversations or formal surveys of community knowledge, needs and perspectives. Common objectives include:
 - Addressing Islamic views on death, dying, and healthcare ethics
 - Promote decisional preparedness and planning for end-of-life healthcare decisions and forms
 - Increase awareness of End-of-Life Healthcare options (Palliative Care, Hospice, advance care planning)
 - Supporting family conversations and religiously informed decision-making
- 2. Selecting Target Audience(s).** Consider an 'all-comer' or targeted strategy involving these key groups:
 - Seniors or caregivers navigating illness
 - Young adults caring for elderly parents
 - Community leaders and health educators
 - A general audience
- 3. Securing Venue and Resources:**
 - Choose a Masjid, or community center and obtain the approval of all parties involved with hosting and delivering the workshop.
 - Ensure AV setup, seating, Wi-Fi, and materials (printouts-Resource Guide), whiteboard, etc.)
 - Invite lecturers and key experts
- 4. Forming a Planning Committee (5–6 Core Members).**

Your team should reflect religious, clinical, community, and operational expertise:

Role	Background	Responsibilities
Workshop Coordinator (Chair)	Public health or community organizer	Oversees logistics, timelines, follow-up
Clinical Lead	Palliative/Hospice physician or nurse (include a Muslim physician as well)	Ensures medical accuracy, develops clinical content

Community Engagement Lead	Local masjid leader or community advocate	Connects with attendees, ensures cultural relevance
Marketing Lead	Nonprofit or digital media background	Creates flyers, manages social media, tracks RSVPs
Evaluation Lead*	Evaluation Lead Researcher or educator	Designs surveys, gathers participant feedback

**Optional*

- 5. Recruit Content Experts.** For this workshop you will need to recruit lecturers who can present on the respective topics; in order to accurately replicate our program, all of the topics below must be covered:

Topic	Presenter	Requisite Knowledge
1. Introduction to Islamic Bioethics	Islamic scholar or clinician trained in fiqh	Understanding of classical and contemporary rulings on life, death, and healthcare ethics
2. Hospice and Palliative Care	Hospice or palliative care physician or nurse	Can explain U.S. care models, eligibility, goals, and common misconceptions
3. Islamic Rulings on End-of-Life Healthcare	Same scholar or clinician as above	Familiar with rulings on life-sustaining treatment, brain death, and ethical frameworks
4. Group Case Discussion	Interdisciplinary panel	Able to engage participants in ethical dialogue around real-life scenarios

1.

Note: Not every community and not every scholar or clinician will have expertise in these domains. This workshop replication kit is set up so that we have resources you can use to familiarize yourself with the materials and utilize our ready-made slide decks (refer to your drive) and videos (see p. 15) to have the lectures in your community. Be cautious to present with humility and not as an expert.

6. **Prepare Surveys and Tools for Evaluation (Optional):** Use **pre- and post-workshop surveys** to measure knowledge gains and workshop impact. Let attendees know this is part of your learning process and will help future programs. Participants should be informed of the surveys at the start of the workshop to ensure complete attendance and to stay for the entire workshop to complete the post-workshop survey.

Marketing Strategies

Community turnout depends on effective, respectful, and inclusive outreach.

1. **Define Message and Tone.** Frame your workshop as an **empowering educational event**, not just a medical or religious seminar.
2. **Utilize the Right Marketing Channels:**
 - Social Media: Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp groups.
 - Email: Personalized outreach to community organizations and Masjids.
 - Community Flyers: Place flyers in clinics, libraries, halal grocery stores/ restaurants.
 - Word of Mouth: Recruit community members and Imams to spread the word
3. **Consider Masjid Partnership.** Obtain committee or Imam approval early. Request the Imam to introduce the topic in Khutbah (3 weeks prior) to set the religious tone without clinical details.
4. **Promotional Materials:**
 - Flyers with QR code for registration
 - Imam/Scholar video endorsement (30 sec on WhatsApp or Instagram)
 - Develop eye-catching graphics, infographics, and videos to accompany promotional messages on social media and other channels.
 - Design an event webpage or landing page with detailed information about the workshop, including date, time, location, agenda, speakers, and registration instructions (reminder about the event 3 days prior and one day prior to the event)

NOTE: Anticipate Questions and Sensitivities

- Be prepared for questions or pushback on hospice and palliative care.
 - The workshop is informational, not prescriptive
 - These services are options, not requirements
 - Islam encourages seeking knowledge and making informed decisions
5. **Promotional Materials:**
 - Flyers with QR codes for registration

Workshop Content

This section outlines three essential sessions that form the core of your community-based End-of-Life Healthcare workshop. Each session combines Islamic ethics, clinical insights, and community context. Along with those 3 sessions, there are several other sessions that may be helpful to include to offer context, nuance, or cover related knowledge gaps.

Session 1: Introduction to Islamic Worldview and Values [OPTIONAL]

Objective: Build a foundational understanding of how Islamic law, theology, and ethics guide our goals and values for life and around death.

Key Topics to Cover:

- The goals of healthcare in Islam (e.g., preservation of life, dignity, and intention)
- The concept of *husn al-khātimah* (a good ending) and what the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ modeled for us
- How to approach difficult decisions with trust (*tawakkul*) and responsibility (*amanah*)
- The role of Qur'an, Sunnah, and fiqh councils in modern healthcare contexts

Recommended Presenter: Religious scholar or Muslim clinician trained in Islamic theology and Fiqh. Refer to “*Islamic Bioethics Slides*” and “*Islamic Bioethical Reflections on Medicalized Dying Slides*” on your drive.

Session 2: Understanding Hospice and Palliative Care [CORE SESSION]

Objective: Demystify the concepts of Hospice and Palliative Care and show how they can be compatible with Islamic values when approached correctly.

Key Topics to Cover:

- Overview: What is the difference between palliative care and hospice care?
- Myths and misunderstandings about these services
- When and why they are introduced
- Settings and eligibility
- Advance directives, DNR orders, and healthcare power of attorney
- Common clinical scenarios

Include real-world stories or anonymized case studies to humanize the material.

Recommended Presenter: Palliative care physician, hospice nurse, or clinician with lived experience serving Muslim patients. Refer to “*Palliative Care VS Hospice Slides*” on your drive.

Session 3: Islamic Rulings on End-of-Life Healthcare [CORE SESSION]

Objective: Explore how Islamic jurisprudence addresses withdrawal of life-sustaining treatments, brain death, and the sanctity of life.

Key Topics to Cover:

- Medical vs. Islamic definitions of death (coma vs. brain death)
- Major fiqh council positions on brain death (Islamic Fiqh Council, AMJA, etc.)
- Islamic ethics of withdrawing/withholding treatment
- Who decides? The role of family, physicians, and the patient
- The virtue of *sabr*, *du’a*, and preparing for the hereafter

Consider incorporating reflections from Qur’anic verses or hadith about death and accountability.

Recommended Presenter: Scholar or Muslim healthcare provider trained in fiqh and Islamic legal reasoning. For this session we have video and other resources to utilize. Please see p.15 for videos links and refer to “*Islamic Rulings on End-of-Life Healthcare Slides #1*”, “*Islamic Rulings on End-of-Life Healthcare Slides #2*”, and “*Islamic Bioethical Considerations for End-of-Life Healthcare: A Guide for Muslim Americans*” on your drive.

Session 4: Case-Based Group Discussion [CORE SESSION]

Objective: Deepen understanding through collective reflection on a real-life case and foster respectful dialogue.

Recommended Format:

- Introduce a clinical scenario (e.g., a critically ill patient, family disagreement about continuing aggressive treatment)
- Divide participants into small groups
- Prompt discussion: What should be done? What is Islamically allowed? Who should decide?

- Reconvene and hear key reflections

Encourage diverse opinions and respectful disagreements—this reflects the diversity of scholarly opinion (*ikhtilāf*) in our tradition.

Recommended Format: Facilitated panel or mixed breakout with clinicians, scholars, and lay participants.

Workshop Delivery

Deliver your workshop in a way that invites conversation, builds trust, and balances knowledge with compassion.

1. Opening Session:

- Welcome participants and introduce the purpose and objectives of the workshop.
- Establish guidelines for respectful and open dialogue throughout the workshop.
- Share a du'a or short Qur'anic verse to frame the discussion.

2. Presentation Sessions:

- Keep each lecture concise (20-30 min) with time for Q&A
- Use visuals and handouts when possible
- Avoid technical jargon—explain terms simply and clearly
- Encourage reflection: “What stood out to you? What would you like to share?”

Tip: Have someone collect live questions via note cards or QR code during the sessions.

- Encourage interaction and participation from participants by incorporating interactive activities, case studies, or group discussions.

3. Breakout Group Discussion Sessions (Optional but Encouraged):

- Organize into small groups (5–7 people)
- Assign facilitators or rotate discussion leaders
- Focus on a specific task: discuss a case, reflect on personal values, fill out a sample advance directive
- Offer a summary from each group in the full session

4. Panel Discussion:

- Invite 3–4 speakers (clinician, scholar, community member with personal story)
- Pose 3–5 core questions in advance
- Open the floor to participant questions
- Close with brief takeaways from each panelist

Suggested Questions:

- “How do you balance medical advice with religion during illness?”
- “What do you wish more Muslims knew about preparing for end-of-life?”
- “What role do families play in navigating these choices?”

5. Closing Session:

- e. Summarize key takeaways from the workshop.
- f. Provide resources for further information and support.
 - i. <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/mono/10.4324/9781003026167/actively-dying-cortney-hughes-rinker>
 - ii. Relevant videos (Refer to video links below)
- g. Invite participants to share their reflections and feedback on the workshop.
- h. Share post-workshop survey link or paper copy
- i. Printed resource packets for families to keep at home

TIP: Provide the community with copies of *Islamic Bioethical Considerations for End-of-Life Healthcare: A Guide for Muslim Americans*.

- f. End with gratitude: thank your team, presenters, masjid partners, and—most importantly—your attendees. Their trust is your biggest success.
- g. Make du’a together or close with a hopeful reminder: "We plan not out of fear, but out of faith and love for those who come after us."

6. Alternatives to live/lecture-style sessions:

- a. Conduct the workshop via Zoom or other online conference platform.
- b. Host a group viewing of relevant YouTube videos covering the topic.
 - i. *Framing Palliative Care: Islamic Bioethical Constructions for Meeting a Good Death*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzhtDhEDM6U&list=PLKPFd4mBCvIhS0_QW46AmxnYGYJmU1QuI&index=5
 - ii. *Intersections between Science, Philosophy, & Sunni Discourse on Death - Rafaqat Rashid, MBBS, MA*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NG9LODLEPGQ&list=PLKPFd4mBCvIhS0_QW46AmxnYGYJmU1QuI&index=6
 - iii. *Aasim Padela, MD, MSc - Ethical Obligations & Goals of Care at the End-of-Life*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JAwBx3WjAuA&list=PLKPFd4mBCvIhS0_QW46AmxnYGYJmU1QuI&index=33
 - iv. *UCL London: Understanding Death: Summary of Islamic Legal Process and Rulings on End of Life*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

- [v=s4TBl72NnM8&list=PLKPFd4mBCvIhS0_QW46AmxnYGYJmU1QuI&index=32](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4TBl72NnM8&list=PLKPFd4mBCvIhS0_QW46AmxnYGYJmU1QuI&index=32)
- v. *Panel Discussion: Strategies to Improve Palliative Care for Muslims - GIPPEC Symposium 2018*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLSDyaG1kPU&list=PLKPFd4mBCvIhS0_QW46AmxnYGYJmU1QuI&index=31
 - vi. *Aasim I. Padela, MD, MSc - Palliative & End-of-Life Care for Muslims - GIPPEC Symposium 2018*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMzqXuBvz1o&list=PLKPFd4mBCvIhS0_QW46AmxnYGYJmU1QuI&index=30
 - vii. *Better Endings: Advance Directives & Islamic End-of-Life Care | Hafiz Yaser Ali & Dr. Ramy Salah* available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUGUJLSpl1I>
 - viii. *Dignity and Health-Care at the End of Life: We Can but Must We?:* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y2zv6yLOdfk&list=PLKPFd4mBCvIhS0_QW46AmxnYGYJmU1QuI&index=25
 - ix. *Dr. Mehrunisha Suleman - "Muslim Values & End-of-Life Healthcare Decision Making"*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Tqn0CqeZto&list=PLKPFd4mBCvIhS0_QW46AmxnYGYJmU1QuI&index=22

Evaluation and Follow-up

1. Participant Feedback

Distribute evaluation forms (optional) or have a group feedback session to gain insights into the workshop content, format, and facilitation.

2. Assess Workshop Impact (optional)

If you're conducting pre- and post-surveys:

- Compare knowledge scores (e.g., % who understood 'advance directive' before vs. after)
- Track increased confidence or willingness to plan
- Evaluate the change in religious comfort with End-of-Life Healthcare decisions

Use this data to write a grant, report to a mosque board, or inform future projects.

One-Page Checklist for Hosting a Mosque-Based End-of-Life Healthcare Workshop

Planning

- ☐ Set date and time
- ☐ Secure venue (masjid, center, or clinic)
- ☐ Form planning team (5–6 people)
- ☐ Confirm speakers (scholar, clinician, community leader)
- ☐ Finalize agenda and content

Materials & Content

- ☐ Print participant handouts (agenda, du'as, terms, forms)
- ☐ Prepare case study for discussion.
- ☐ Review speaker slides for balance and clarity
- ☐ Prepare Qur'anic/hadith reflection for opening/closing
- ☐ Set up pre/post surveys (paper or QR code)

Outreach & Registration

- ☐ Create flyer with RSVP QR code
- ☐ Promote via WhatsApp, social media, email, masjid
- ☐ Ask Imam to announce in khutbah (2–3 weeks prior)
- ☐ Schedule reminders (3 days + 1 day before event)
- ☐ Track RSVPs or signups

Day-of Logistics

- ☐ Test AV equipment and mic
- ☐ Set up sign-in table and handouts
- ☐ Assign volunteers (greeting, tech, timekeeping)
- ☐ Provide water/snacks (optional)
- ☐ Begin and end with a du'a

Wrap-Up & Follow-Up

- ☐ Collect surveys before participants leave
- ☐ Thank speakers and volunteers

- ☐ Share follow-up resources or guide
- ☐ Meet with team for debrief and lessons learned
- ☐ Optional: offer follow-up Q&A or support session

Appendix: Sample Materials

To support your planning process, we have included **sample materials from our previously conducted End-of-Life Healthcare workshops**. These real-world examples illustrate how other communities have approached this topic—offering you inspiration, structure, and ideas to tailor your own event.

You can find several more examples from the II&M website under “Workshops”: <https://medicineandislam.org/workshops-muslim-health-and-bioethics/>

Sample Agenda

I AM PCN Community Workshop

Venue: ISM Brookfield

Date: September 30, 2023 (9:00 am – 1:00 pm)

Community Workshop Goals

1. To improve your **awareness, knowledge and preparedness** with regards to End-of-Life Care concepts and contexts
2. To **provide supportive expert contacts**: Islamic scholar, Muslim physicians, and the Muslim Community Health Center
3. To activate you all **to start having conversations about a good death** at home and in the community

AGENDA	
9:10-9:30 am	Setting the Stage: Pre-workshop survey & Introductory Remarks
9:30-9:45 am	Spotlight: The Muslim Community Health Center (Drs. Tahir & Hafeez)
9:45-10:30 am	<i>Palliative Care and Hospice:</i> <i>The Who, What, Where, When, Why, & How</i> (Dr. Renee Foutz)
Break- 5 minutes	

10:35-11:20 am	<i>Islamic Bioethical Reflections on Medicalized Dying</i> (Dr. Aasim Padela)
<i>Break- 10 minutes</i>	
11:30-12:40 pm	<i>Mock Case decisional walk-through & panel discussion</i> (Dr. Laila Azam) Panel: Drs. Padela, Quryshi, Foutz & Shaykh Zulfiqar Ali Shah Lunch during the case study session
12:40-1:00 pm	Closing: Post-workshop survey & Thank You

Sample Workshop Format

Islamic Bioethics and End-of-Life Healthcare:
Navigating Difficult Decisions in the Age of Medicalized Dying
Initiative on Islam & Medicine Workshop
Conference on Medicine & Religion 2024
2pm-5pm

Topic/Subject	Duration	Notes	Slides
Introduction to Islamic Bioethics & End (IBE) of Life Care [Instructor] ● Learning objectives ● Basic concepts in IBE ● Goals of healthcare ● Moral status of seeking care ● Medicalized dying imposition of values ● Common issues/topics encountered in EOL care by Muslim patients & physicians: a. brain death b. life support c. death & dignity	25 mins	1. List down learning goals 2. Basic introduction to these topics. 3. Raise questions & prompt thinking, but do not give answers	
Case study – Group Discussion 1. Participants move into their groups – 5 mins 2. Read case study & discuss the questions – 30 mins 3. Choose a leader (spokesperson)	35 mins	Participants will be assigned to groups. Each group should have 5-7 ppl. Participants can be assigned either: 1. Randomly (Easy & quick – no guarantee on diversity) 2. With diverse backgrounds (to ensure multiple perspectives within 1 group)	
Stretch Break	10 mins		
Group presentation – 1 spokesperson for each group [25 mins] 1. Each group presents for 3 mins max 2. Instructor will assign 1-2 questions for each group (not all) Q&A between groups [10 mins]	35 mins	Each group will present their views/ opinion on 1 or 2 questions only in the case study (not all). After all spokespersons have presented, let audience ask/contest/challenge other group presenters. Instructor should not interject with his opinion, rather listen and observe (to understand the knowledge gap & what needs to be covered in the next part)	

Deliberation over case study [by Instructor] 1. Presentation of remaining slides + comments on unresolved issues from the group presentation a. Brain death from the IBE lens b. Life support withdrawal – permissibility	30 mins	Instructor will present slides that answer the questions in the case study (focus will be more on concepts/theories, followed by attempts to align them with practical knowledge and reality). Here the instructor will also address any unresolved questions from the previous session.	
Case Closure and Cognitive Exercise (“Re-imagining Death”) 1. Ask participants to reflect within their group the following [15 mins]: a. If the exercise has changed their views or the way they would have answered the questions. If yes, how? b. Think of an alternative for ‘medicalized death’; How does a good death look like to you? What kind of death do you desire for your loved ones? How do you view an “Islamic death” (<i>husnul khatimah</i>)? 1. Select randomly 2-3 groups to share their thoughts [10 mins] 2. Instructor presents slides or comment on the concept of ‘good death’ [15 mins]	40 mins	Here the instructor will first bring the participants into a different mood or state of mind. After heated debates & discussions, ask them to breathe deeply and imagine how death (or the process of dying) can happen differently than the current ‘medicalized’ approach happening within modern medicine. After the groups share their ideas (for 10 mins), the instructor will present the last part of his slides, addressing the concept of ‘good death’ in Islam (eg: by referring to the story of the Prophet (pbuh)).	
Closing remarks	5 mins	The instructor will present 3-5 take-home messages.	

Sample Advertising and Promotional Materials

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Dr. Renee Foutz , MD is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Emergency Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She specializes in hospice and palliative medicine and emergency medicine.



Dr. Aasim I. Padela, MD, MSc, FACEP is Professor with Tenure of Emergency Medicine, Bioethics and the Medical Humanities at MCW. He is also director of the Initiative on Islam and Medicine. His scholarship aims at improving health and healthcare equity by better accommodating religious values in healthcare delivery.

On death & dying

Terminal illness, dying & living wills are difficult topics to talk about, despite the reality of death.



Do you know..

American Muslims in general have little knowledge and awareness about palliative & hospice care, and advance care planning.



Dr. Ismail Quryshi, MD, FACP, HMDC, a physician specialist with the Froedtert & MCW health network. He specializes in hospice and palliative medicine and geriatric medicine.



Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Shah is the Director Religious Affairs of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee and Executive Director/Secretary General of the Fiqh Council of North America.

What about Islam

There are misperceptions and perceived tensions between aspects of end-of-life care with Islamic teachings.



"Good death"

Ever thought of engaging with end-of-life care as a patient - or caregiver for a loved one - to face the final moment in peace & without regret?



References

1. Dr. Aasim Padela - Conceptualizing Death in a Pluralistic Society: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_JcxieDhO5c
2. Yunus, R.M., Duivenbode, R. and Padela, A.I., 2024. American muslim engagement with advance care planning: insights from a community survey. American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine®, 41(4), pp.405-413.
3. Better Endings: The Islamic Perspective on End-of-Life Care | Dr. Ramy Salah: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSVVdlQ_ocI
4. Better Endings: Advance Directives & Islamic End-of-Life Care | Hafiz Yaser Ali & Dr. Ramy Salah: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUGUJLSpl1I>
5. The Deathbed: From Spiritual Farewell to Clinical Process | Dr. Ramy Salah: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5yxeuWNhov0>