MEDITECH Expanse is designed to fully accommodate the spiritual and religious needs of your patients and the workflow of your pastoral care team members. To provide healthcare chaplaincy for patients and families of all faiths, your organization can use MEDITECH Expanse to track and document support during the healing and grief processes. Our EHR facilitates the inclusion of chaplains as members of your healthcare organization’s care team, ensuring your patients and their families’ emotional, spiritual, and religious needs are being met. For highly-personalized care, our EHR supports standard and customized, discipline-specific documentation templates, such as spiritual, clergy, or religious assessments. Using MEDITECH Expanse, your chaplains can:

**Identify Patients for Chaplaincy through Predictive Surveillance**

Chaplains can easily coordinate pastoral care and efficiently manage their workloads. Status boards, containing predictive surveillance capabilities, can provide chaplains with an interactive, centralized view of patients who have requested pastoral or spiritual care throughout your organization. From their pastoral care-specific status board, chaplains can view all relevant patient data and readily access assessments and interventions to document care. Nursing status boards can also display the surveillance column, with indicators for patients who have requested pastoral care, should a nurse need to contact the chaplain. For example, chaplains can promote communication between patients, families, and staff regarding religious or cultural beliefs that may impact medical decisions.

**Record Pastoral Care Using Flexible Documentation Capabilities**

For pastoral or spiritual care, your organization can use our intuitive, point-and-click documentation tools that feature query-based data capture capabilities to standardize responses and improve the speed of documentation. For example, as shown below, using a Spiritual Assessment, chaplains can select from a list of defined responses for a patient’s spiritual beliefs, practices, needs, etc. By using the same query, chaplains can gather information from across the continuum of care, so that previously documented responses carry forward (e.g., patient’s religion from admission). To ensure more personalized care, embedded rules-based logic can require or suppress queries based on previous responses and direct chaplains to the next logical field in an assessment.

To quickly document patient information, chaplains can capture data within assessments by using rules, queries, and free text responses as well as recall values that have previously been documented in the enterprise patient record. During documentation, chaplains can refer to attached organizational protocols within assessments and web page reference links (e.g., shared ethical codes for consulting in bioethical decision making) that are available throughout the system. Assessment links can also add care items, such as interventions, assessments, and reassessments, to the patient’s care plan based on query responses. Your organization can define reassessment times to trigger automatic alerts on status boards to indicate any
due or overdue spiritual reassessments. All documentation is available for viewing within the enterprise patient record. Authorized staff can create and modify documentation templates at any point during patient care to meet changing needs and requirements.

Additionally, chaplains can use canned text, query responses, saved data, and formatted data to produce notes. They can also share their notes with other members of the patient’s care team using our system-wide HIPAA-compliant messaging dashboard.

**Experience the Benefits of Integration**

While your chaplains will benefit from our EHR’s optimal workflow management, your patients will benefit from the highest level of coordinated pastoral or spiritual care during their stay. Through pastoral-specific status boards, chaplains can view scheduled times for pastoral services or care and what the patient has requested, such as religious services, anointing of the sick, last rites, etc. They can also easily see if another chaplain is in the room with the patient or has already performed the requested pastoral care without having to disturb the patient.

With healthcare chaplaincy accommodated within MEDITECH Expanse, chaplains can ensure that their services are provided to every patient who requests it throughout your organization. In addition to helping patients and families, chaplains can also help medical professionals and other staff with any emotional or moral concerns they carry in a supportive and therapeutic way.

For more information, contact a MEDITECH Marketing Consultant.