

Learning Activity:

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	EXPANDED CONTENT OUTLINE
1. Discuss the challenge of assessing symptom prevalence and distress among high-risk ICU patients, whose physical and cognitive status waxes and wanes	I. Examine the challenges of patient assessment and symptom burden among critically ill patients at high-risk for dying.
2. Describe symptom assessment instruments that have been tested supporting the use of proxies in providing valid assessment of critically ill family members.	II. Overview of the challenges in conducting research among critically ill patients at EOL.
3. Describe research study findings and how proxy family members can serve as sources of information about patient symptom distress and care management among ICU patients' at high-risk for dying.	III. Synopsis of symptom assessment instruments and the scope of gathering self-reported symptom prevalence and distress among ICU patients.
	IV. Research report on a complex, challenging study attempting to understand the prevalence, frequency and level of distress of symptom burden among high-risk, dying patients, and how utilizing proxy reports can contribute overall to decision making and symptom management when patients can no longer communicate their distress or care decisions.
	V. Future research opportunities among critically ill ICU patients to test symptom management strategies and to optimize the role of proxy reporters on behalf of patients.