



INTRODUCING SCHWARTZ ROUNDS®

Physician/Clinical Leader or Facilitator:

Mission of the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare

- Mission is to promote compassionate healthcare and strengthen the relationship between patients and caregivers
- Focused on fostering relationships “that provide hope to the patient, support to caregivers and sustenance to the healing process”

History of the Schwartz Center

- Non-profit organization housed at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston
- Established by Ken Schwartz, a healthcare attorney, who died of lung cancer in 1995 at age 40
- During his illness, Ken wrote a poignant account of his struggle with cancer that was published in the *Boston Globe Magazine*. In his essay, “A Patient’s Story,” Ken described a group of caregivers who attended to his medical as well as emotional needs – caregivers who “made the unbearable bearable.”
- He worried that with the financial pressures and the changing healthcare environment would take the engagement and empathy out of healthcare.
- Ken expressed a wish before he passed away to set up a center to focus on the patient-caregiver relationship.

What are Schwartz Rounds?

- Schwartz Rounds are a multidisciplinary forum where caregivers discuss the difficult emotional and social issues that arise in caring for patients.
- Very different from clinical or ethics rounds, Schwartz Rounds is not about what happened, but how it felt.
- Rounds were piloted at Massachusetts General Hospital in 1997 and have been held there since. Currently, Schwartz Rounds are held in hundreds of sites across the US and almost 200 in UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.
- We hope you will find Schwartz Rounds a safe, comfortable forum where you can learn from and support each other.
- You may wish to introduce Planning Committee Members as well, and identify them as resources for anyone who has questions or would like to make suggestions about the program.



Facilitator:

Ground Rules

- Confidentiality: “Confidentiality is an important element of Schwartz Rounds. What is said in this room should stay in this room with respect to information about patients and families as well as what is shared amongst colleagues. However, we encourage further discussion about the themes we explore during our discussion here today.”
- Cellphones/Beepers/Pagers: Remind participants to silence all cellphones and beepers. If there is an emergency, participants should be reminded to please leave quietly so they can attend to it.
- Additional Support: We suggest you identify additional support resources for staff: EAP, pastoral care, behavioral/mental health, etc. This is particularly important with Virtual Schwartz Rounds and should be mentioned at the beginning and conclusion of Schwartz Rounds.
- Evaluations: Remind participants at the beginning and end of Schwartz Rounds to complete session evaluations, noting they are an important tool for the Planning Committee and an opportunity to share feedback and suggest topics/cases for future Schwartz Rounds.

Physician/Clinical Leader:

Panel

- Introduce the panelists (if used) and today’s topic for discussion
- Offer a brief (<5 min) overview of the topic or case under discussion today