**Background**

Spiritual care is recognized as an essential component of holistic nursing care that is linked to improved health outcomes. Elements of spiritual care include giving consideration to patients’ spiritual practices that may impact their medical treatment, asking about the patient’s past and present spiritual practices, and participating in their spiritual or religious practices. Despite the acknowledgement of spiritual care as a requisite of quality nursing practice, only 12% of nurses report receiving spiritual care training. As many as 88% of acute care nurses fail to provide spiritual care, and as few as 6% of patients report receiving it.

**Theoretical Framework**

American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) Synergy Theory

- Nurse’s spiritual competence
- Knowledge and awareness
- Nurse’s comfort level

**Results**

- Significant improvement in comfort assessing and addressing patients’ spiritual needs (p=.05).
- Nurses reported more frequently providing therapeutic communication to help patients reflect on their spirituality, making arrangements for patients to participate in spiritual practices, and personally participating in spiritual care after the intervention (p < .05).
- 91.6% found the SOULS discussion guide useful, and 83% found DNRCC useful for practice 83%.
- The discussion guides facilitated open, honest conversations with patients and families.
- Identified words the nurse can use to approach the topic.
- Nurses requested more institutional and physician support for integration of spiritual care.

**Implications for Practice**

- Validates use of standardized spiritual care discussion guides
- Expounds on literature by identifying an intervention to enhance nurses’ comfort
- Further investigation of barrier mitigation needed