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PAPERS

*Nurturing Spirituality in Healthcare Chaplaincy*



## How qualitative research can foster the spirituality of the chaplain

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Chaplaincy is a profession in which the personality and spirituality of the chaplain play an essential role. In order to be emotionally available to listen to the life story of patients or residents it is a prerequisite to connect to one's own personal and spiritual narrative. This inner posture of reflexivity and openness is helpful for the chaplain who enters the field of qualitative research.

Departing from a hermeneutical perspective the chaplain-researcher may discover that his or her spirituality turns out to be equally important in the research work, in a reciprocal way. As a researcher one benefits from one's own chaplaincy experience of providing personal spiritual care. As a chaplain one is enriched both personally and spiritually by the research experience of mutual understanding of what is at stake in the caring context.

In this paper I will draw from my own experience as a chaplain-researcher and provide references from the literature to underpin my plea for the integration of chaplaincy, research and spirituality.

### *References*

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