

INTRODUCTION

Spiritual care for patients has been a part of care since the beginning of caring for the sick. Spiritual care dates back to the time of shamans or the Middle Ages, when in the care of the sick there was the satisfaction of spiritual need in various forms. In the Middle Ages, there were three important women in Central European medicine. Anežka Česká, Alžběta Durynská and Hedvika Slezská. These women combined extremely dedicated care for the sick and the poor. From the 16th to the 18th century, the family was cared for mainly by the family at home. An important figure in this period was Apolónie Radermecherová, who took care of the sick in the city hospitals with several other women. She is the founder of the Order of Saint Alžběta, her first mission was to care for the sick in the hospitals that the sisters founded. The order is currently caring for the sick and dying. Spirituality and spiritual needs have accompanied mankind since always. Different ways of spiritual coping with the reality of human finiteness can be found in many statements and writings of all great religious and philosophical traditions (Péče v závěru života, H. Kisvertová 2018). Spirituality is reflected in the time in which we live, in culture and society, and in the religion of the country. The inner life of a man is important for everyone and accompanies us throughout our life.

In the recent past in our country, the need for spiritual care has been denied. It was not included as a part of patient care. The patient could thus suffer in the knowledge of the need for something forbidden.

Today, patient care is conceived with a holistic approach, and satisfying spiritual needs is an integral part of patient care. Nowadays, when the COVID 19 pandemic is plaguing us in all directions, the importance of the need for somebody close is shown. The presence of the family of patients is not allowed, so the service of a hospital chaplain should be used more. In these difficult times, the sick need someone to visit them and encourage them with their presence.

I chose the topic of the offer of spiritual care in the hospital because the service of a hospital chaplain in our hospital has been provided only for three years. It is therefore relatively new and during the research I wanted to find out what is the offer of spiritual care and its use. How much patients and healthcare

professionals are aware of this service. I was thinking about how to make better use of the hospital chaplain. Whether more attention can be paid to this service and, last but not least, how the hospital chaplain perceives the use of this service.

In the theoretical part, I thought about what the spiritual needs of man are, when we deal with them most often and what differences in the spiritual needs of each of us there are.

In the research part, I include interviews that I conducted with the hospital chaplain, with paramedics and patients from various departments of our hospital. In some hospitals, the service of a hospital chaplain is fully developed, in some it is not at all or is just starting.

I am interested in the topic of spiritual care, because in the current situation it shows how patients are more alone and I would like to point out the importance of hospital chaplain service not only spiritually but also in terms of work, so that it would be easier for health professionals to work with patients better. If all the needs of the patient are met, the patient will be better able to recover from his illness or at least suffer less mentally from a serious illness. Being able to accompany the patient in his difficult moments is a very meritorious activity.

In my work, I would like to point out the importance of addressing the spiritual needs of man, whether in the role of a patient or in the role of caring for the sick. On the basis of the acquired knowledge, I would like to achieve the development of spiritual care in our hospital.