



Spirituality in the Care Team:

Fostering a Climate of Communication & A Dynamic of Caring

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To consider...

What is a palliative care consultation team?

What is an interdisciplinary team?

What are dynamics of interdisciplinary collaboration?

What is the place of spirituality within care of the seriously-ill?

What are barriers to integration of spirituality?

How can communication nurture and promote a community of caregivers essential to patient-centered care?



Palliative Care

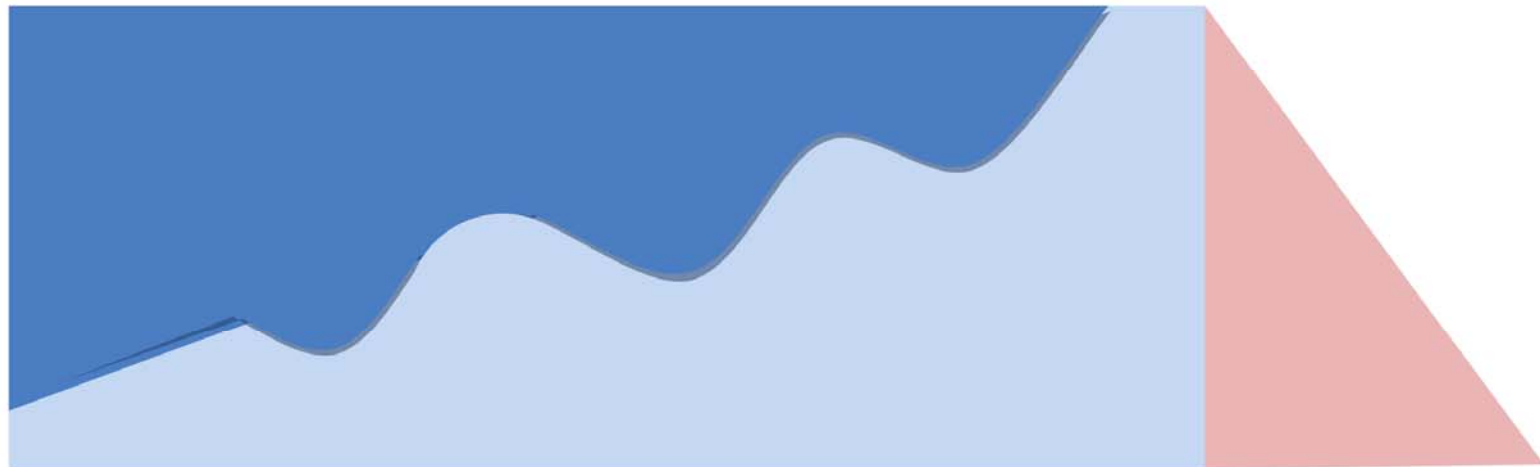
Center to Advance Palliative Care, 2011

Palliative care is specialized medical care for people with serious illnesses. This type of care is focused on providing patients with relief from the symptoms, pain, and stress of a serious illness - whatever the diagnosis.

The goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family. Palliative care is provided by a team of doctors, nurses, and other specialists who work with a patient's other doctors to provide an extra layer of support. Palliative care is appropriate at any age and at any stage in a serious illness, and can be provided together with curative treatment.



Disease-Directed Therapies



Diagnosis

Palliative Care

**Death and
Bereavement**



Chronic Illness:

9 out of 10 deaths in Medicare population are associated with 9 chronic illnesses:

congestive heart failure

chronic lung disease

cancer

coronary artery disease

renal failure

peripheral vascular disease

diabetes

chronic liver disease

dementia

Dartmouth Atlas Report, Wennberg, et al., 2008, p. 1.



Hospital-Based Palliative Care- A Consultation Model

Client = referring medical team

Consultants = Interdisciplinary palliative care team

(MD, CRNP, SW, Chaplain, PharmD)

Focus on 3 domains:

- *Relieve physical and emotional suffering*
- *Improve patient-physician-family communication and decision-making*
- *Strengthen transition management and continuity of care across settings*





Team: a group harnessed together





What is an interdisciplinary team (IDT)?

A group of ≥ 2 clinicians working from different orientations while at the same time engaging in joint work...

- to produce family-centered care
- integrating specialized knowledge into a comprehensive care plan
- translating discipline-specific jargon for each other
- prioritizing focused communication work, and
- shared team leadership

Wittenberg-Lyles, Goldsmith, Ferrell, & Ragan, 2013



Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Palliative Care





Teamwork in Palliative Care

“The interdisciplinary team is the foundation and core method of palliative care programs”. Meier & Beresford, 2008

“The interdisciplinary palliative care team is a community of caregivers essential to patient-centered care.” Puchalski, et al., 2006



Interdisciplinary Collaboration Process

“...an effective interpersonal process that facilitates the achievement of goals that cannot be reached when individual professionals act on their own.”

Bruner, 1991; Bronstein, 2003

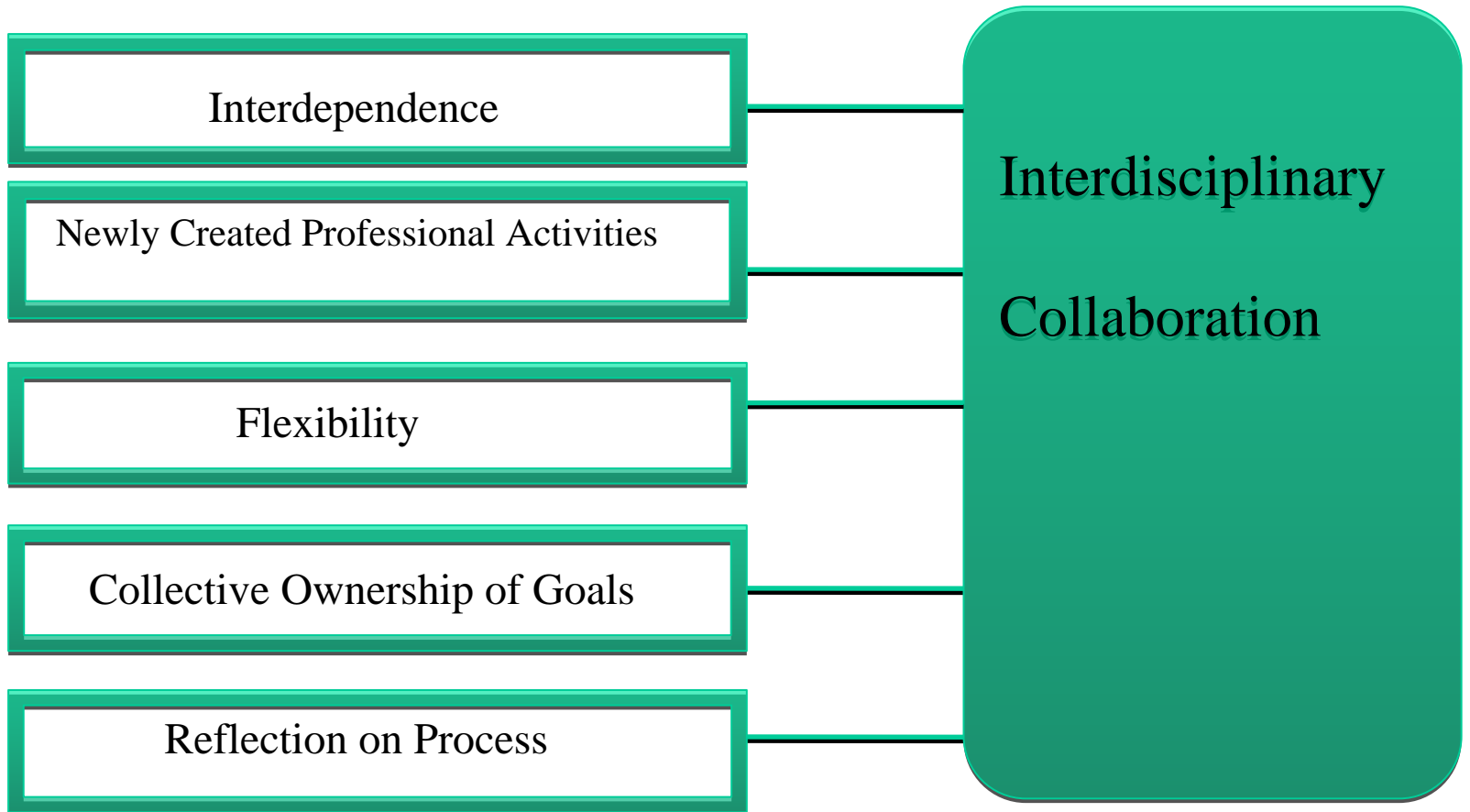
“A dynamic communication process that relies on sharing resources, mutual dependence between team members, and sharing and respecting positions of power afforded by credibility or expertise.”

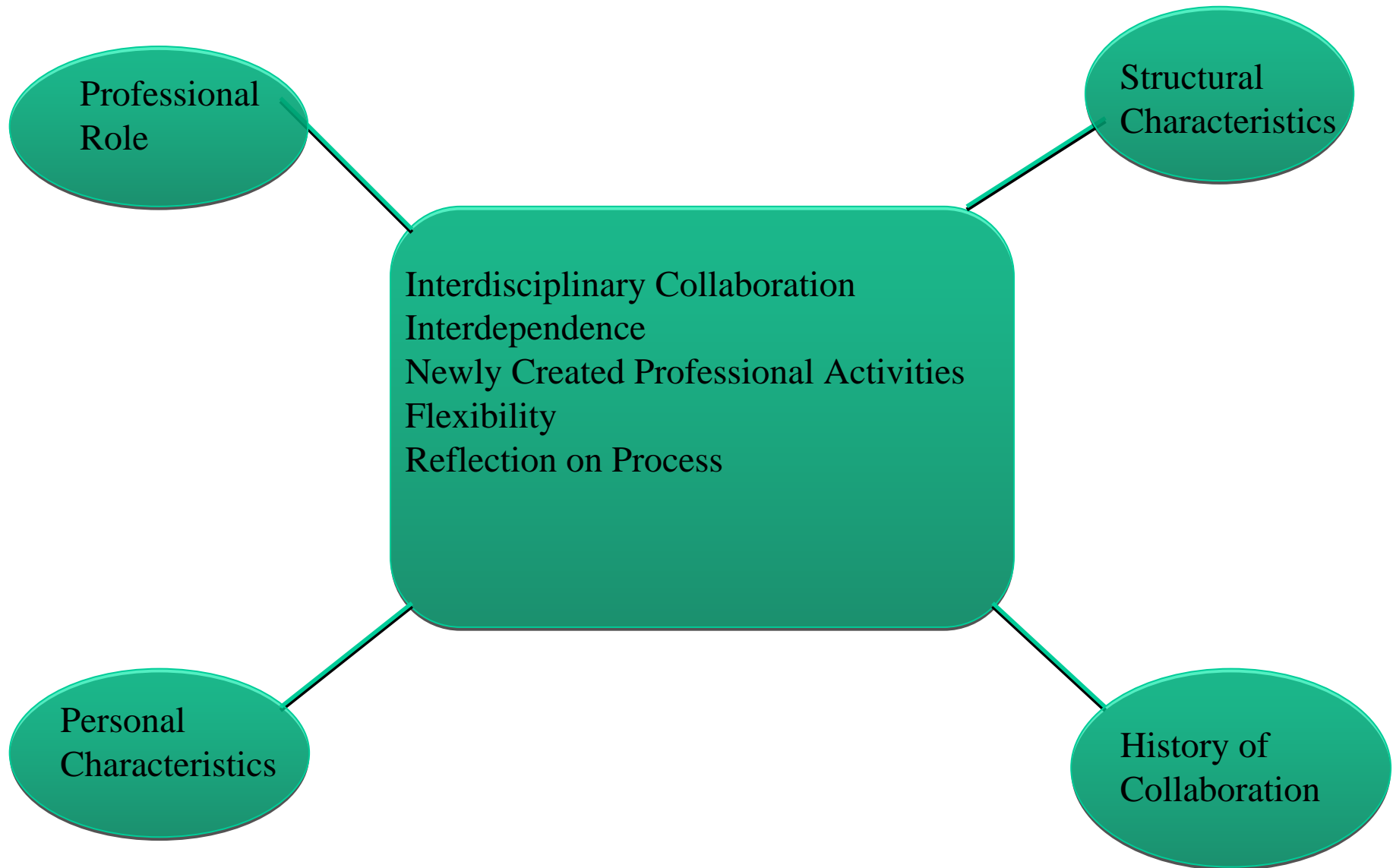
Wittenberg-Lyles, Goldsmith, Ferrell, & Ragan, 2013



Model for Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Bronstein, 2003







Is Interdisciplinary Teamwork in Palliative Care valued?





Palliative Care Performance Standards

Palliative care staff demonstrates:

- compassionate presence with patients.
- teamwork among IDT members and other organization staff involved in patient's care.
- respect for patient's rights to communication
- utilizes other services, e.g., pharmacy, psychology, rehab services, ethics consults, etc.

Center to Advance Palliative Care, 2011; The Joint Commission, 2012



Performance Standards relevant to Spirituality & Communication

Program supports & facilitates:

- a collaborative environment.
- team communication.
- patient's comfort and dignity

Center to Advance Palliative Care, 2011; The Joint Commission, 2012



What is the place for spirituality on the palliative care team?





What is Spirituality?

“Spirituality imbues the human condition. In spirituality, we perceive our presence on the planet as more than a biochemical accident. It is power beyond ourselves that can be within us. It forms an awareness of inner peace, courage and compassion. And it bestows the wisdom to know how to care...”

Purdy, 2002

“It is that part of human beings that seeks meaning and purpose in life. Spirituality in the clinical setting can be manifested as spiritual distress or as resources of strength”.

Puchalski, Lunsford, Harris, & Miller, 2006



How spiritual ideas are inherent to palliative care:

- commitment to non-abandonment
- focus on trusting, interpersonal communication
- provide support to caregivers of a nature “that transcends the tangible”

Purdy, 2002



Spiritual Issues in Palliative Care

- Meaninglessness
- Despair
- Hopelessness
- Desire to be remembered
- Issues of forgiveness and reconciliation
- Need for spiritual resources
- Support from spiritual or religious community, family, others
- Lack of trust in health care providers

Puchalski, Lunsford, Harris & Miller, 2006



Role of Chaplain on the Palliative Care team





Interdisciplinary Spiritual Care in Palliative Care

- Chaplains integrated into interdisciplinary team
- Framework: patient-centered care; relationship-centered
- Care
 - spiritual assessment & intervention
 - referrals
 - incorporating spiritual practices or rituals
 - compassionate presence & intuition
 - staff support
 - team leadership in spirituality
 - bereavement
 - education of health care providers and peers in spiritual care



Performance Standards relevant to Spirituality

Care plan is developed based on:

- patient's needs/goals.
- cultural/spiritual/religious information.

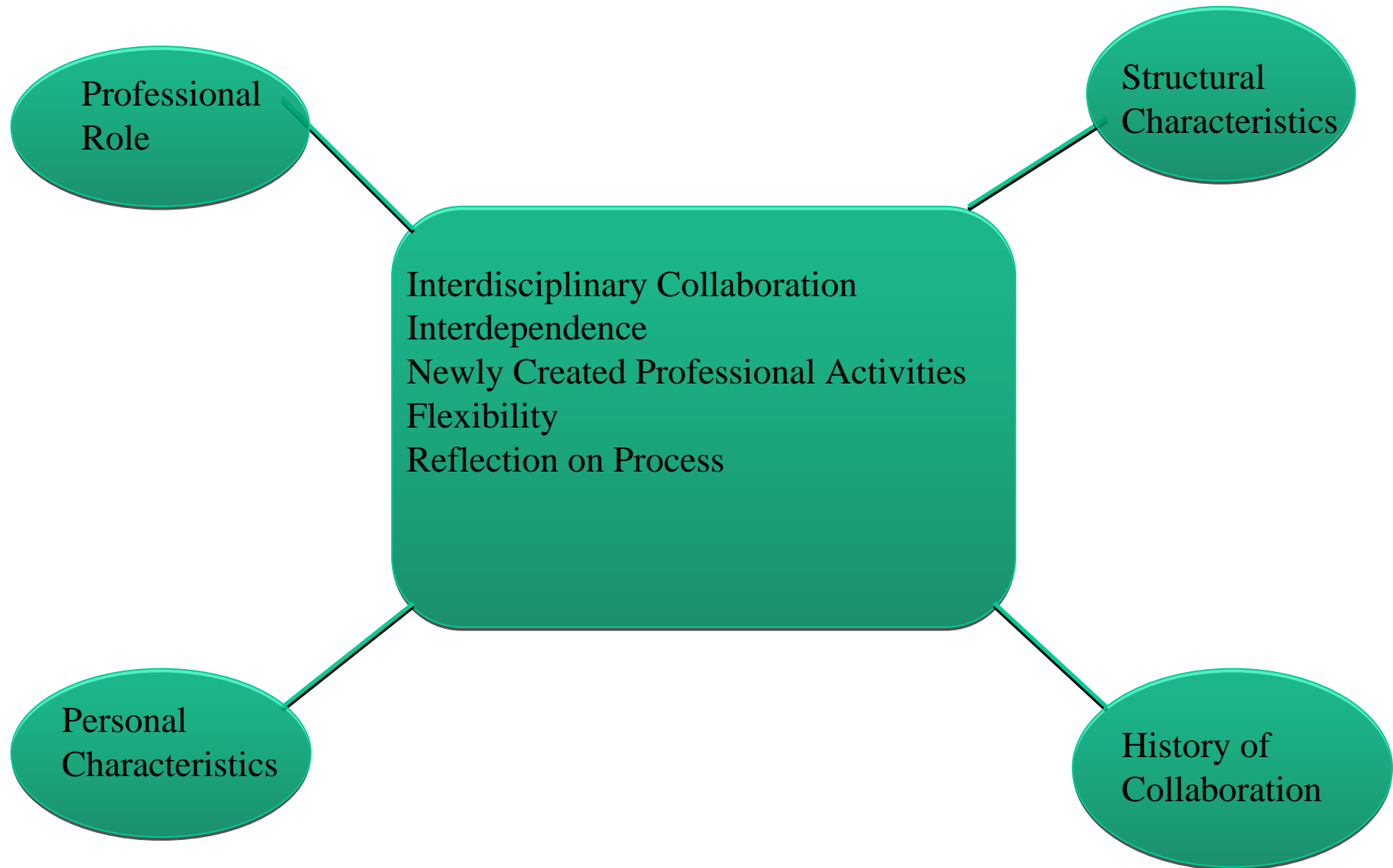
Spiritual care is made available from organizations 's
pastoral care department &/or clergy.

- Provide grief/bereavement referral.



Barriers to Integration of Spirituality in Interdisciplinary

Collaboration Bronstein, 2003





Model for interdisciplinary spiritual palliative care

