The context of nurses striving to care for the spirit, nurses must assess what patients and their caregivers want and expect. Thus, the purpose of the current study was to determine what patients with cancer and their primary family caregivers expected of nurses with regard to having spiritual needs addressed. More specifically, this study sought to describe patient perceptions of spiritual care and nurses’ role in it by creating a categorized list of types of spiritual care appropriate for nurses to provide. This study is part of the initial, qualitative phase of a larger project investigating spiritual needs of patients with cancer and family caregivers.

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