The dying experience affects all dimensions of an individual. Dying evokes many changes and reactions in the patient as well as the family. Only people with a terminal illness understand the experience of living with such an illness. The need to belong, to have close personal connections and relationships with others, is the very essence of human existence (Baumeister & Leary, 1995). According to Bowlby (1979), adults have a need to form enduring, emotional attachments with other adults. Close personal relationships take on a variety of forms and have been found to be of paramount importance for the well-being of individuals experiencing stressors such as those associated with life transitions (Berschied & Peplau, 1983).

**Key Points . . .**

- Close, personal relationships are an important component of social well-being at the end of life that may be defined as having a relationship with God or a higher power.
- Relational communication of love and gratitude support close personal relationships.
- Nurses can increase dialogue and conversation with patients at the end of life by having a list of themes targeting the importance of the social well-being domain of quality of life.

(Ferrell, Grant, Funk, Otis-Green, & Garcia, 1997). However, within the context of end-of-life (EOL) care, the social domain of QOL has been largely untapped. If knowledge about the meaning of social well-being at EOL from the perspective of the terminally ill patient with cancer is gained, it will broaden the understanding of QOL at EOL, specifically contributing to understanding of the importance and meaning of close personal relationships. This study aimed to advance the understanding of the social well-being domain, as a dimension of QOL, from the perspective of dying patients within the context of terminal illness.

**Literature Review**

According to Bowlby (1979), adults have a need to form enduring, emotional attachments with other adults. Close personal relationships take on a variety of forms and have been found to be of paramount importance for the well-being of individuals experiencing stressors such as those associated with life transitions (Berschied & Peplau, 1983).