

## **Module 3**

### **Symptom Management**

#### **Module Overview**

This module builds on Module 2: Pain Management, by addressing other symptoms common in advanced disease and the role of the nurse in managing these symptoms.

#### **Key Messages**

- There are many physical and psychological symptoms common in serious illness.
- Optimum treatment of symptoms involves comprehensive assessment and use of drug and nondrug interventions.
- Nurses must work collaboratively with physicians and other disciplines in symptom management.

#### **Objectives**

At the completion of this module, the participant will be able to:

1. Identify common symptoms associated with seriously ill Veterans with myriad serious illnesses and conditions.
2. Identify potential causes of symptoms seen in myriad serious illnesses and conditions.
3. Describe assessment considerations for common symptoms.
4. Describe interventions that can prevent or diminish symptoms experienced by Veterans with myriad serious illnesses and conditions.
5. Describe potential occupational exposures that may influence diseases and conditions in Veterans with serious illness.