



ADOPTION-SENSITIVE CLINICAL CARE



Welcome to your July update from ASCC!

In this issue, we're exploring an often-misunderstood experience: **grief and loss experienced by placing and birth parents**.

Placing a child for adoption initiates a complex, lifelong form of grief that exists outside the bounds of conventional loss. This reality underscores the need for adoption-sensitive training among healthcare professionals, who serve as the first line of support during these pivotal moments.

For more on this important topic, check out the training highlights, resources, and perspectives below.

Training Highlight: Understanding the Lifelong Impact of Adoption

A major barrier to healing for parents who are considering adoption or who have placed a child for adoption is **disenfranchised grief**: loss that is minimized or invalidated by society.

Because popular narratives often focus on the joy adoption brings to the adoptive family, the profound grief of placing and birth parents frequently goes unacknowledged. Societal pressure and misunderstanding often forces individuals to repress their sadness and isolate themselves with mixed feelings of guilt or shame.

The Understanding Infant Adoption curriculum, and in particular Module 4, emphasizes the importance of validating this pain and connecting patients to pre- and post-adoption counseling resources that can help them integrate their loss into their ongoing lives.

Access this content and build your skills with FREE CMEs, IPCEs, and Social Work CEs:

1.5-hour course

2.5-hour course

4.5-hour course

6.5-hour course

July Features: Resources, Trainings, FAQs

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Featured Resource: Birth Parent Issues of Grief and Loss

In [this article](#), author Kris Faasse breaks down how unique personality traits, family backgrounds, and traditions influence the grieving process, and details the complex realities of anticipatory and disenfranchised grief. This resource offers guidance for medical providers along with support tools like structured hospital plans, entrustment rituals, and immediate memento collection.

Free Supplemental Training: Compassion Fatigue

Consistently absorbing patient trauma, grief, and loss can gradually erode a provider's own emotional reserves, leading to compassion fatigue.

[This free course](#) helps professionals to prevent burnout and preserve their capacity for genuine connection, ensuring you can remain resilient for your patients without sacrificing your own well-being.

Featured FAQ: Who can receive continuing education credit for the ASCC training?

ASCC collaborates with a jointly accredited provider who is authorized by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) to provide continuing education for healthcare professionals.

Most ASCC courses offer continuing education credits for:

- Nurses
- Physicians
- Physician assistants (through AAPA)
- Social workers (through ASWB)
- Interprofessional healthcare teams

Healthcare Provider Perspectives



Watch Video

Grief vs. Regret in Adoption Plans

Registered nurse and hospital adoption care coordinator Jennifer Woolley emphasizes that a patient's deep emotional distress is often a healthy, expected response to a painful choice, not an automatic sign of regret or coercion related to making an adoption plan.

Validating pain and providing space for hard conversations ensures patients are supported through their grief while remaining empowered to make autonomous decisions.



Watch Video

Postpartum and Going Home

While a typical delivery ends with taking a baby home, birth mothers face a challenging contrast: navigating the physical demands of postpartum recovery without a newborn in their care. In a sneak peek of our forthcoming supplemental training course, Preparing and Partnering with Expectant and Birth Parents in Adoption, OB/GYN Dr. Julie Taylor examines how providers can help to practically bridge this physical and emotional gap.

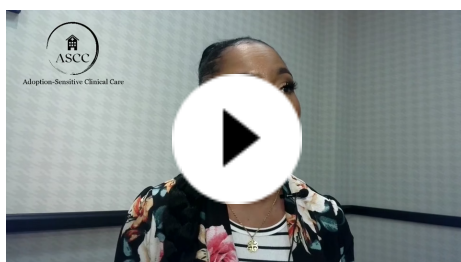
Birth Parent Perspective: Is Anyone Out There?

Birth mother Nicole Strickland offers her personal insights on the isolation of placement:

“I think that a birth mother’s grief is a grief like no other. I was grieving the loss of my motherhood and not raising my baby on my own, yet he was still alive and being cared for by someone else. I felt as if no one else could understand the bittersweet turmoil in my heart. I still felt sure I’d made the right decision, but it was still so hard to know my son was out there and being parented by someone else.”

[Read More](#)

Adoption Professional Perspective: Connecting to Long-Term Support



Hospital care is crucial, but when a patient has made an adoption plan, their need for support doesn't end at discharge. Saara McEachnie, an agency director of adoption programs, highlights how healthcare professionals can best support their patients' long-term healing by serving as a bridge to the community.

Watch the video to hear more from Saara

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info@hbasct.org | hbasct.org | training.hbasct.org



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