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c h e s e d

## BIKKUR CHOLIM

### Prayer When Visiting a Sick Person

*By Rabbinic Intern and Former Chaplain Jen Schlossberg:*

In a sick person's presence, a visitor may pray for the patient in any language since one is in the presence of the Divine presence. (Bavli Shabbat 12b; Shulchan Aruch YD 335:5)

#### Tips for Offering Prayers:

- Some people like prayer, some don't, but most want one anyway.
- It's not about the words. Try singing. Or humming a tune. Or closing your eyes. Or sitting in silence.
- See prayer as a means to further the conversation. Try offering one in the middle of your visit. The patient may want to process it with you, or the prayer may spark something else in them that they want to talk about.
- Sometimes the patient wants to pray with you or wants you to add something particular to your prayer.
- Prayer can be as moving for us as it is for the person who is ill. You deserve a prayer too!

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