



STRENGTHENING A PALLIATIVE APPROACH IN LONG-TERM CARE (SPA-LTC) PROJECT

RESEARCH BRIEF

What are the differences among occupational groups related to their palliative care-specific educational needs and intensity of interprofessional collaboration in long-term care homes?

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Canadian Frailty Network | Réseau canadien des soins aux personnes fragilisées

Known previously as Technology Evaluation in the Elderly Network, TVN

BACKGROUND

- Long-term care (LTC) is an unique health care environment for older residents with complex medical needs
- A significant challenge for LTC homes is the cohesive establishment of a national end-of-life strategy in Canada
- Health-care workers, policy makers, and researchers have supported and encouraged an inter-professional collaborative (IPC) approach as a possible solution for this challenge

RESEARCH TOPIC

- The aim of the study is to (a) compare differences across occupational groups related to their palliative care-specific educational needs and to (b) explore the intensity of IPC in LTC

METHODOLOGY

- A cross-sectional survey was administered at four LTC homes in Ontario, Canada using a modified Dilman's approach
- In total, 697 LTC staff were given surveys, including personal support workers, support staff and registered staff

KEY FINDINGS

- 317 participants completed the survey (126 PSWs, 109 support staff, 82 registered staff) with a total response rate of 45%
- Significant differences emerged among occupational groups across all scales and subscales

CONCLUSION

- This study showed that there are differing educational needs and a varying sense of IPC among LTC staff that is specific to their discipline (i.e., PSWs and support staff appeared to require more education)
- Optimal palliative care may require more resources to increase the availability of support that staff can provide for the care of patients in LTC