

Study of Laval's population level of knowledge about palliative care and development of a short film using a knowledge transfer approach: prototype of a pilot project



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Introduction

- **Palliative and end-of-life care (PEOLC)** aims to improve the quality of life of patients facing a life-threatening illness by relieving their physical, psychological and spiritual suffering. However, the **level of knowledge about palliative and end-of-life care remains low**, both among the general population and among some health care professionals (Lane et al., 2019 ; Shalev et al., 2018).
- The research highlights the **urgency of raising awareness** about PEOLC and recommends research directed at developing and implementing educational interventions to **deconstruct the myths** surrounding PEOLC and to **increase knowledge** about PEOLC (Kernohan et al., 2018; McIlpatrick et al., 2014).
- **Arts-based and storytelling approaches** hold promise for popularizing knowledge, transferring knowledge, and opening a dialogue with the public because these approaches 1) promote interaction between the public and researchers, and 2) use individual experience to build understanding of scientific concepts (Hartling et al., 2010; Mitton et al., 2007; Shannon et al., 2013).

Objectives

- **To increase the general level of knowledge about palliative and end-of-life care among four (4) categories of the adult Laval population: people at the end of life, people with chronic diseases, health professionals, and people in good health.**

More specifically, this project aims to :

- Solicit the participation of the Laval region's population in order to identify their knowledge needs in the area of PEOLC.
- Develop a short film popularizing scientific data that answers the identified needs.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the short film as a collaborative tool for knowledge transfer in PEOLC.

Methods

Phase 1 – Identifying knowledge needs about PEOLC

- Conduction of a **scoping review** of public knowledge gaps, myths surrounding PEOLC and social perceptions of PEOLC.
- Creation of an **open response and multiple-choice questionnaire** designed to identify key knowledge needs related to PEOLC.
- Administration of the questionnaire to a sample of each population group and analyzing the review and questionnaire data using **descriptive and statistical analyses**.

Phase 2 – Determination and creation of a knowledge transfer strategy

- Based on the data collected and the statistics obtained, **development of the script** for a short film (length: 10 min) using a **"storytelling" type of narrative** (Bray et al., 2012) in collaboration with a film production team.
- Presentation of the script to the public in the form of a **public reading and gather comments** from the public. Modify the script as needed.
- **Creation of the short film** by a professional filmmaking team.

Phase 3 – Evaluation of the knowledge transfert process

- Creation of a multiple-choice questionnaire designed to assess participants' level of understanding of PEOLC (Krathwohl, 2002)
- Dissemination of the short film via several public platforms and via the project researchers' network of contacts.
- Completion of the questionnaire by the participants after viewing the short film.
- Conduction of a focus group with volunteer participants to explore their understanding of the short film. Analysis of the data through thematic analysis.
- Comparison between the results of the questionnaire and the thematic analysis in order to establish a portrait of the knowledge transfer enabled by the short film.

Expected results

- To increase knowledge about PEOLC among the Laval population in order to help demystify this care and increase its use.
- To identify the continuing education needs of health professionals who may provide palliative and end-of-life care or refer patients for such care.
- Replicate the project locally in other regions of Quebec or develop a provincial project to identify the knowledge needs in PEOLC in Quebec.