

3rd International Conference on
PALLIATIVE CARE & HOSPICE NURSING

February 21, 2022 | Webinar

Implementing Palliative Care Referrals for Patients being Discharged from Hospice Services: A quality Improvement Project

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Background/Problem Statement:

PROBLEM

- Families/patients are expected to resume care of chronic illnesses on their own after hospice discharge. Most patients will continue to require complex care beyond their and their families' ability.

DEFINITION

- Palliative care or palliative medicine is a patient-centered health care that delivers holistic treatment to patients with curable, chronic, or life-limiting illnesses (Center to Advance Palliative Care [CAPC], 2018).

SOLUTION

- Palliative care referrals for patients being discharged from hospice services will provide continuity of care for patients.

Purpose Statement:

- The purpose of the project is to obtain palliative care referrals for patients being discharged from hospice.
- Kurt Lewin's Change Theory and the Kellogg Logic Model of Program.
- Assess hospice nurses' knowledge about palliative care and comfort in discussing referrals when discharging patients from hospice.

Review of Key Literature: A literature search did not reveal studies discussing or exploring palliative care for patients being discharged from hospice

- Historical perspective on palliative care
- What palliative care is and what it aims to do
- Palliative care referrals
- Palliative care education for nurses
- Interprofessional team communication
- Palliative Care Outreach

Methods:

Setting

Any hospice center with a palliative care department.

Participants

Hospice and palliative care physicians, social workers, directors of nursing and area vice-presidents, hospice registered nurses and palliative care nurse practitioners.

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Intervention Assess hospice nurses’ knowledge with pre-test, followed by educational session, and post-test. Implement strategies to improve communication between levels and teams. Initiate palliative care outreach to patients/families.

Measures Bonn PCKT tool will be used for the pretest and posttest to measure differences in knowledge of hospice nurses before/ after education.

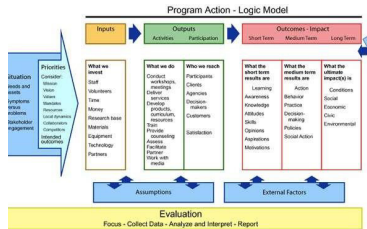
Theoretical Framework:

Lewin’s Change Theory.⁴ Three main stages:

1. Unfreezing stage
2. Change stage
3. Refreezing stage



Lewin's Change Theory consists of three main stages: the unfreezing stage; the change stage; and the refreezing stage, along with driving and restraining forces (Lewin, 1947). This theory will be used as a guide to plan and implement this project.



Kellogg’s Logic Model⁵: Components:

- Inputs
- Activities
- Outputs
- Outcomes
- Impacts

Results:

Analysis

Sample n=20 hospice nurses

t-Test: Paired Two Sample for Means

PRE-INTERVENTION	
POST-INTERVENTION	
Mean 63.8	
87.6	
Variance 105.2210526	
28.4631579	
Observations 20	
20	
Pearson Correlation. 0.56780588	
Hypothesized Mean Difference 0	

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df 19	
t Stat -12.58424232	
P(T<=t) one-tail 5.78007E-11	
alpha 0.05	
t Critical one-tail 1.729132812	
P(T<=t) two-tail 1.15601E-10	
t Critical two-tail 2.093024054	

Discussion:

The results of the nurses' survey show the effectiveness of the palliative care educational PowerPoint.

The hospice nurses who supported the project will integrate it into practice with the support of their leadership.

Biography

Elisabeth M Butler is a Nurse Practitioner Specialist in Providence, Rhode Island. She graduated with honors in 2016. Having more than 6 years of diverse experiences, especially in NURSE PRACTITIONER, Elisabeth M Butler affiliates with Miriam Hospital, cooperates with many other doctors and specialists in medical group Avenir Ventures LLC.

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