The effect of an enhanced palliative care education program on advanced practice providers in a community-based palliative care program.

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Project Evaluation
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“On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given nor received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment.” Nikki Davis, 05/08/2019
Abstract

The number of palliative certified advanced practice providers is insufficient to meet the demands of the specialty workforce. The shortage of trained and experienced palliative care clinicians, combined with a lack of adequate post-licensure palliative care education and training, highlights the need to address knowledge gaps and increase self-efficacy for clinicians delivering palliative care (Institute of Medicine, & World Health Organization, 2015). The evidence base of literature supports the need to increase the number of adept clinicians who provide community-based palliative care (CBPC), and the need for additional training programs (Bhavsar, et al. 2017; Meier, Back, Berman, Block, Corrigan, & Morrison, 2017).

This scholarly project implemented a voluntary educational intervention for APPs who deliver CBPC with the goals to improve: palliative care knowledge and assessed self-efficacy in palliative approaches to care, along with any trending impact that increased palliative care self-efficacy and knowledge may have on APP job retention. Matched pretest-posttest results were used to assess APP palliative care knowledge and self-efficacy after an on-line, asynchronous educational intervention. A five-question Likert type questionnaire was used to assess the impact increased palliative care knowledge and self-efficacy had on APP intent to remain in their current role. The mean test score to evaluate palliative care knowledge improved from 80 on the pre-test to 85 on the post-test, with p <0.001. The mean test score to evaluate self-efficacy in palliative care increased from 43 on the pre-test to 45 on the post-test, with p <0.001. The ability to connect APPs’ intent to remain in their role to increased trends in palliative care self-efficacy and knowledge was not statistically significant. However, there was correlated relevance, with 44% of participants reporting that the intervention provided an engagement opportunity that motivated current job retention.