

## Abstract

**Objective:** This quality improvement project sought to improve the utilization of palliative care services in appropriate hospitalized patients with Class III and IV heart failure.

**Methods:** An educational session was administered with a pretest-posttest design to measure the impact on nursing knowledge. The educational offering focused on the appropriate criteria for utilization of palliative care in hospitalized heart failure patients through support of a clinical decision support tool. Participants included employed registered nurses working in inpatient and transitional care areas.

**Results:** A total of 1195 registered nursing participants completed the educational offering with a statistically significant improvement in knowledge score (mean 89.07 vs 95.57,  $p=.000$ ).

**Conclusion:** This study found that education on palliative care and the clinical decision support tool increased knowledge of nurses regarding the appropriateness of palliative care in Class III and IV heart failure patients. Further translation into improved utilization of palliative care services in this population would benefit from longer term study.

*Keywords:* Palliative Care, Heart Failure, Nursing Knowledge, Clinical Decision Supports, Interdisciplinary Team