

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.