

## **Abstract**

Patients and families have palliative needs, especially at the end of life (EOL). These needs go unmet when frontline nurses lack knowledge of palliative/EOL care; however, there is ample evidence that palliative/EOL nursing education initiatives are effective at increasing both knowledge and confidence. The End of Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) is one such long-running initiative. This project developed and implemented an ELNEC-based, tailored educational workshop on a single inpatient oncology floor. After completing a pre-test measuring nurses' existing knowledge and confidence, participants completed online ELNEC modules that provided a consistent palliative knowledge base prior to the project workshops. The nurses then attended 2-day, 16-hour workshops utilizing ELNEC content tailored to unit and organization needs, formulary, and policies and procedures. Pre-test scores showed room for knowledge improvement, with an average score of 80%. The knowledge items with an incorrect majority or especially divergent responses were most often questions that related specifically to death and dying. Similarly, pre-test confidence scores indicated higher confidence in managing common oncological needs, such as constipation, nausea, and pain, and lower confidence in managing death and dying, such as discussing the dying process, and exploring patients' wishes for after death. While no post-data was able to be gathered, the pre-data aligns with findings in the literature, and offers avenues for further study. The participants' response to the project was overwhelmingly positive. 20 nurses enrolled, and 100% completed all online foundational modules and also attended and actively participated for both days of their scheduled workshops. Informal feedback during and after the workshop supported the demand and perceived usefulness for this type of intervention. Participants also endorsed immediate and positive changes to the participants' own practice, as well as in bringing these changes back to the unit in direct support of colleagues, patients, and families.