

Palliative Care Education for International Medical Graduates

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Background

Why?	The GMC in Northern Ireland hosted a 'Welcome to UK Practice' session for an August 2023 cohort of International Medical Graduates. Feedback from this session identified palliative care as a specific learning need.
Who?	All trainees identified as new to the NHS in February 2024 were invited to attend.
How?	A team of local palliative medicine consultants and trainees and a representative from GMC met and discussed content and logistics.

Programme

Topic	Time
GMC Guidance on End of Life Care	0900-0915
Palliative Service in NI	0915-0930
Introduction to Symptom Management	0930-0945
Opioid and Syringe Driver Prescribing	0945-1015
Break	1015-1030
Recognising Dying	1030-1045
Communication Skills (Simulation/Scenarios)	1045-1200

Bespoke Content

Consent and Capacity

Regional Legislation

MDT Working

When/How to Refer?

Sample Content

GMC guidance
DR AMY JONES, IMT3

Hospice Inpatient Units

- Northern Ireland Hospice
- Marie Curie Hospice
- Foyle Hospice
- Neary Hospice
- Strang Hospital
- Macmillan Unit

Reasons for admission:

- End of life care
- Provision of specialist services

Signs and Symptoms

Last Weeks

- A steady or stepwise deterioration despite active therapy
- Exhaustion/unwanted admissions

Final Days

- Long periods of unconsciousness
- Little to no oral intake
- Mottled skin
- Respiratory secretions

Anxiety/Distress

- Assess for cause/preventability (e.g. urinary retention)
- Morphine 2-5mg SC and assess response
- If more than 1 dose required in 24 hours consider adding to SCD
- Haloperidol/Levomepromazine 2nd line

SPIKES
Enter a Patient First Approach to Advance Care Planning Conversations

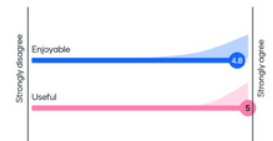
VITAS
Palliative Care Support Services

Feedback

Learners:

- Liked and benefited from the role play aspect.
- Found virtual and in person attendance useful.
- Enjoyed the interactive nature.
- Have a desire for more.
- Agree that Palliative care is an important topic.
- Were content with the selection of topics

I found the roleplay aspect of the session



Rate the following topics in terms of benefit



What will we do differently?

- Improve awareness
- Be proactive in the participation of our virtual audience

"It was practical and clinically necessary. Definitely recommended."

"I loved the discussions. I liked that the topics brought out challenges new colleagues could face in the hospital".

Next Steps

- This work has been presented at a regional workshop for enhanced induction for IMGs.
- Interest from two NI Health and Social Care Trusts to host the session for more doctors.
- Session content has been refined following feedback. Goal for the teaching materials to become a resource to be used regionally for enhanced induction programs

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