



A two year collaborative education initiative to improve the quality of end of life care within 13 Nursing Homes in the Kingston area

Jane Berg, Deputy Director, Skills, Knowledge and Skills and
Carole Cousins, Practice Educator Community Outreach



Background

Care homes play a critical role in the delivery of care towards the end of life. In 2005 16% of people died in a care home increasing to 22% in 2014, with the suggestion that care homes will be the most common place of death by 2040¹ Advance Care Planning (ACP) and the skilled assessment and management of symptoms at the end of life are viewed as key factors in enabling nursing home residents to live and die well in a place of their choosing².



'More able to support residents die without pain and with dignity'
Participant

Method

Princess Alice Hospice Educators, Community nursing Impact Team and Kingston Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) undertook a collaborative education initiative in 13 nursing homes in the Kingston area between April 2016 and December 2017. A total of 53 Registered Nurses (RN), 2 Allied Health Care Professionals and 33 paid carers undertook the ACP study day and 53 RNs, 2 Register Mental Nurses (RMN's) 5 managers and 7 carers attended the symptom management training day. Pre and post questionnaires were conducted to evaluate the training and subsequent impact on practice.

'More aware of the residents needs at the end of life and how to make them comfortable'
Participant

'Increased confidence in having ACP discussions'
Participant



Conclusion

A significant percentage of participants stated that the course had increased their confidence in having ACP discussions, recognising and managing symptoms at the end of life and using the McKinley syringe pump. More residents were offered ACP discussions and an increasing amount of anticipatory medications were being prescribed.

Implications for practice

- Ongoing collaborative projects to improve ACP and symptom management at the end of life in nursing homes
- Expanding the hospice virtual learning platform to offer end of life care courses to the care home sector and pre-registration nurses.
- Supports the Nursing home as a rich learning environment for pre -registration student nurses.

1. Bone et al (2017) What is the impact of population ageing on the future provision of end of life care? Population based projections of place of death Palliative Medicine
2. National Palliative and End of Life Care Partnership Ambitions for Palliative and End of Life Care: A national framework for local action 2015-2020