Providing quality end-of-life care

What is End-of-Life Essentials?

Many Australians will receive care at some point during the last year of their life in a hospital and many of these people die in hospital.

*End-of-Life Essentials: Education for health professionals within acute hospitals* provides online learning modules and implementation resources to help build health professional capacity in Australian hospitals. Relevant for nurses, doctors and allied health professionals in any acute care practice setting, this e-learning package deals with end-of-life care. The package has been prepared by the internationally recognised palliative care team at Flinders University. It is free to use and can be easily accessed from anywhere in Australia.

All components of the e-learning package draw upon the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care's *National Consensus Statement: Essential elements for safe and high-quality end-of-life care.* This reflects the views of clinicians, health consumers, carers, experts in the field and the Commission.

Why is this e-learning required?

Australian health care professionals who work in acute hospital settings are highly trained and skilled in rapidly diagnosing and responding to patients with deteriorating health. However, treatment of symptoms and response to the needs of dying patients and those in the last year of life requires a different set of skills. We know that responses to dying patients and their families could be improved in Australian hospitals.

This important project has been funded by the Australian Government, under the National Palliative Care Projects initiative. It will help nurses, doctors and allied health professionals to extend their expertise, access evidence-based materials and set their own learning program according to their individual needs.

What else will be available?

The project includes an implementation tool kit that will provide health professionals with additional materials to share with colleagues and care resources specific to their profession.

A website, End-of-Life Essentials, will facilitate access to the learning modules and learning management system as well as the implementation toolkit and relevant literature and evidence.

A communications campaign will raise awareness of end-of-life issues in hospitals and the resources and evidence that can help.

Getting involved


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