PREPARING UNDERGRADUATE NURSING STUDENTS TO PROVIDE PRIMARY PALLIATIVE CARE TO PATIENTS WITH SERIOUS ILLNESS

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Background & Significance

- In 2017, 20.4 million people worldwide, will be diagnosed with life-limiting, chronic illnesses that impact quality of life of patients & families.
- Demand for specialty palliative care is exceeding the resources, especially in rural and underserved communities.
- Nurses must be prepared to provide primary palliative nursing across all clinical settings.
- Despite an increasing demand for nurses to be prepared in primary palliative care, few nursing faculty members are prepared to teach this content and lack of available space in nursing schools’ curricula is a barrier to teaching this content.

AACN CARES Document Competencies

Palliative nursing experts and faculty from across the U.S. came together in Portland, OR (2015) to write the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Palliative CARES Document:

- Competencies
- And
- Resources to
- Educate Nursing
- Students

The AACN CARES Document (2016) and 17 Competencies can be found at: www.aacn.nche.edu/elnec/New-Palliative-Care-Competencies.pdf

ELNEC (End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium)

- Since 2000, ELNEC has held 212 Train-the-Trainer Programs in 97 countries around the globe
- More than 651,420 nurses have been trained
- ELNEC Curricula include Core, Pediatrics, Geriatrics, Critical Care, & APRN
- Curricula have been translated into 8 languages
- ELNEC’s newest curriculum is designed to meet the AACN CARES Document for preparing undergraduate nursing students to provide primary palliative nursing by the time of graduation

ELNEC- Core Curriculum served as framework for ELNEC- Undergraduate. Adult learning principles guided the creation of interactive modules which can be taught totally online, in class, or a hybrid of both. Six one-hour modules are offered and address:

- Introduction to Palliative Nursing
- Communication
- Pain Management
- Symptom Management
- Loss, Grief and Bereavement
- Final Hours of Life

Results Since January 2017

- More than 100 nursing programs have enrolled students in the ELNEC Undergraduate curriculum
- Over 11,000 modules have been completed
- More than 1,700 students have successfully completing the entire curriculum
- Evaluations have been overwhelmingly positive

Framework/Foundation for ELNEC- Undergraduate Curriculum

Example: Results for Final Hour Module (6 months)

Student Testimonial

"I learned so much throughout this course. I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity to take this through my BSN program. I learned about the power of presence, how to better support the patient and family, grief, the importance of caring for yourself in these difficult situations, and how it is truly an honor to care for the dying. There is a sacredness about being involved and let into these personal moments. I cannot say that I look forward to them, but I feel more equipped to be a part of them now."

Curriculum Summary

- ELNEC- Undergraduate is available to all nursing programs at an inexpensive cost
- The online curriculum is easy to use and eliminates barriers that have hindered teaching primary palliative nursing in the past
- Faculty & students alike are rating the curriculum highly

Acknowledgement

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Visit the ELNEC Website: http://www.aacnnursing.org/ELNEC

Access to ELNEC- Undergraduate Curriculum: http://elnec.academy.reliaslearning.com/