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Palliative Care Research: From strong foundations to new horizons

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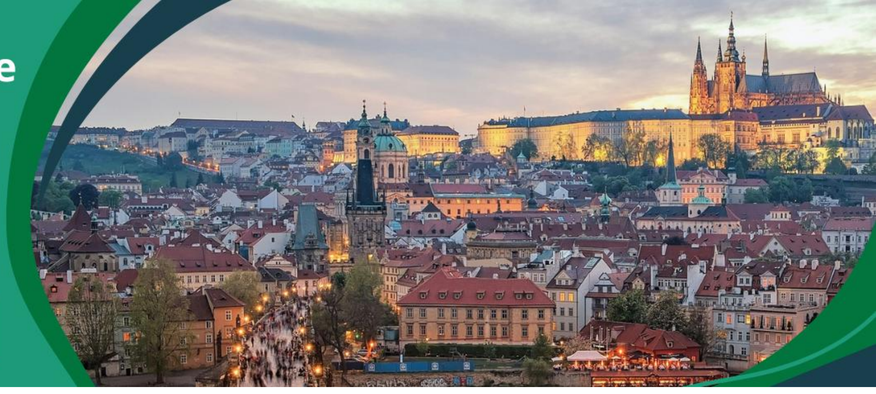

Equity of Access: the referral process in Palliative Care – preliminary data from a scoping review

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Background

Late Referral: Limits quality of life.

The Gap: Lack of consensus in non-cancer cases.

Goal: Equitable access for all patients

Aim

To map evidence on the PC referral process for adults, identifying:

1. Existing models and instruments.
2. Contexts of use and best practices

Methods

JBI

Databases PubMed CINAHL

Screening rayyan

Synthesis

Results

Search Yield **5,198**

Top Identified Tools	Common Referral Triggers
NECPAL: Chronic conditions	**Surprise Question**
SPICT™: Clinical indicators	**Functional Decline** (Karnofsky/ECOG)
GSF-PIG: Primary Care focus	**Frequent Hospital Admissions**

Table 1. Principal Validated Tools and Referral Indicators for Adult Palliative Care

Discussion

Oncology Bias: High evidence in cancer; low in dementia/organ failure.

Setting: Major gap in Primary Care models.

Trigger: Surprise Question is common but needs objective support

Conclusions

Standardizing referral triggers is the first step toward universal and equitable palliative care access.

References

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