

## A systematic review exploring nursing competences in palliative care

### Citation

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### Review question

What are nurses' levels of competences in palliative care?

How does nurse competence differ in the different levels of palliative care?

### Searches

Databases: CINAHL, MEDLINE, PubMed, Academic Search Premier and Scopus databases will be searched for relevant literature.

Key terms: 'palliative care or hospice care or end-of-life care' and 'competence or professional competence' and 'nursing'.

The key MeSH terms will be exploded if possible in the databases, and the terms will be modified as necessary for use in each database.

The searches will include studies published from 1998 to the present.

Inclusion criteria:

1. Peer-reviewed research;
2. Studies with a focus on bachelor's degree or registered nurses with palliative care competences;
3. Studies involving empirical studies in different healthcare contexts;
4. Studies with a focus on palliative or end-of-life care;
5. Studies published in English, Swedish, Finnish, Spanish, Portuguese or German;
6. Full-text available in participating university databases.

Exclusion criteria:

1. Editorial comments, discussion papers and similar;
2. Studies with a focus on other health care competences or organization competence development;
3. Studies with a focus on education interventions effects on competences;

4. Studies in which the focus of which is not on palliative or end-of-life care;
5. Written in languages other than those listed in the inclusion criteria;
6. Full-text not available.

### Types of study to be included

No restrictions will be imposed, as long as the studies meet the inclusion criteria.

### Condition or domain being studied

The need for palliative care is increasing, especially in Europe, as the world's population is ageing and the incidence of non-communicable diseases is growing (Connor & Bermedo 2014).

Palliative care is provided in a wide range of healthcare settings, from tertiary hospitals to primary care. All health care professionals should have competencies to provide appropriate palliative care (Gamondi et al. 2013), but in order to develop palliative care and education strategies, there is a need to first systematically assess nursing competencies in palliative care.

Reference:

Connor SR, Bermedo MCS. Global Atlas of Palliative Care at the End of Life. World Health Organization. 2014. [http://www.who.int/nmh/Global\\_Atlas\\_of\\_Palliative\\_Care.pdf](http://www.who.int/nmh/Global_Atlas_of_Palliative_Care.pdf).

Gamondi C., Larkin P & Payne S. 2013. Core competencies in palliative care: an EPAC White Paper on palliative care education- part 1 and 2. European Journal of Palliative Care 20 (2-3)

### Participants/population

Nurses, patients, stakeholders who are studied regarding nursing competences.

### Intervention(s), exposure(s)

Palliative nursing: nursing competences in different contexts or levels of palliative care, including reference to knowledge, attitudes and skills which increase the quality of palliative care.

### Comparator(s)/control

None.

### Context

All healthcare units in which palliative care is provided will be considered, including: long-term health care units, acute units, ICUs, special palliative care units, pediatric units or hospice units.

### Main outcome(s)

Core competences of palliative care nursing, with respect to context and levels of palliative care.

## Measures of effect

### Additional outcome(s)

None.

## Measures of effect

### Data extraction (selection and coding)

Preliminary and systematic searches will be carried out independently by one researcher and one librarian, and then compared to ensure the quality of the individual searches.

The titles and abstracts of the studies retrieved will be screened against the inclusion and exclusion criteria by two researchers independently. The full texts of the studies identified as being potentially eligible for inclusion will then be assessed by two researchers, and decisions made regarding inclusion/exclusion. Any disagreements over the eligibility of any particular study will be resolved through discussion with a third reviewer.

A standardised, pilot-tested form will be used for the data extraction, which will include: author, year and country of the study, study setting, aim, method, participant demographics and characteristics, quality of data, main findings of competences, and level of palliative care/context.

### Risk of bias (quality) assessment

The included studies will be critically appraised for validity and risk of bias independently by two review authors using the Hawker et al scale.

### Strategy for data synthesis

A narrative synthesis is planned, and articles will be explored to identify evidence on how nursing competence, attitudes and skills are defined in different health care contexts and palliative care levels.

### Analysis of subgroups or subsets

This is a qualitative synthesis, and while subgroup analyses may be undertaken, it is not possible to specify the groups in advance.

### Contact details for further information

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### Review team members and their organisational affiliations

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### Type and method of review

Narrative synthesis, Systematic review

### Anticipated or actual start date

01 August 2018

### Anticipated completion date

31 January 2019

### Funding sources/sponsors

Doctoral studies scholarship

### Conflicts of interest

### Language

English

### Country

Finland, Portugal

### Stage of review

Review Ongoing

### Subject index terms status

Subject indexing assigned by CRD

### Subject index terms

Attitude of Health Personnel; Clinical Competence; Health Knowledge, Attitudes, Practice; Hospice and Palliative Care Nursing; Humans; Nurses; Nursing; Palliative Care; Palliative Medicine; Professional Competence; Terminal Care; Terminally Ill

### Date of registration in PROSPERO

13 November 2018

### Date of first submission

25 October 2018

### Stage of review at time of this submission

| Stage   | Started | Completed |
|---|---------|-----------|
| Preliminary searches  | Yes     | Yes       |
| Piloting of the study selection process                         | Yes     | Yes       |
| Formal screening of search results against eligibility criteria | Yes     | No        |
| Data extraction   | No      | No        |
| Risk of bias (quality) assessment                               | No      | No        |
| Data analysis   | No      | No        |

*The record owner confirms that the information they have supplied for this submission is accurate and complete and they understand that deliberate provision of inaccurate information or omission of data may be construed as scientific misconduct.*

*The record owner confirms that they will update the status of the review when it is completed and will add publication details in due course.*

### Versions

13 November 2018