

POPLPRAC 722

Symptom Management in Palliative Care

15 Points

Semester 1, 2014

Course Prescription

Assessment and Management of pain, nausea and vomiting, respiratory symptoms, delirium, and other symptoms commonly encountered in palliative care and at the end of life, together with an overview of palliative care emergencies, the role of radiotherapy in symptom management, and issues around nutrition and hydration at the end of life.

Goals of the Course

To introduce the student to the principles of pain and symptom management in advanced life limiting disease and at the end of life

To encourage inquisition in and understanding of person care and symptom management within the Palliative Care approach

To develop the student's clinical assessment skills through case based teaching, lectures, interaction and the varied course work

To enhance the student's understanding of the use of opioids, other analgesics and medications used in the management of common symptoms

To promote reflective practise in the student's own professional development and in palliative care delivery at the work place

To support and develop the student's case presentation skills within the clinical setting of the workplace, both in the didactic and written forms

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the course the student will

- Have gained knowledge in the pathophysiology of disease states and symptoms and become more familiar with the principles of assessment and management within the palliative care approach
- be better enabled to assess symptoms including those associated with emergencies, identify and carry out timely investigations including clinical history and examination, pre-empt complications or morbidity and when possible prevent distress
- be better skilled to critique and evaluate the appropriateness of investigations and interventions including complimentary therapies, necessary for optimal patient-based outcomes
- be able to access the literature and other sources of evidence, then to incorporate and apply what is known as current best practice into symptom management
- be better equipped with skills that demonstrate evidence of reflection on clinical practice and to identify areas for his/her professional development
- be able to apply knowledge into practise, and actively participate in the delivery and development of optimal palliative care at the work place
- be more confident in patient advocacy through case discussion and presentation.

Learning and Teaching

This course is delivered in distance mode and includes one 2-day seminar in Auckland. Course details and information including access to digitised readings and assessments are online and will be made accessible through Cecil at the beginning of the semester. Broadband internet connection is recommended for easy access to online resources and assessments. Flash Player can be downloaded free to enable access to the programme.

Teaching Staff

Professional Teaching Fellow:

Dr Moira Camilleri

Academic Course Co-ordinator and Lecturer:

Yvonne Bray

The team are grateful to the specialist speakers who contribute their time and knowledge to this course.



POPLPRAC 722 Symptom Management in Palliative Care

Programme Administrator

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Campus Teaching Dates in 2014

Seminar days are held at Tāmaki Campus on **Thursday 10th and Friday 11th April, 8.30 am-5pm**
Please see your timetable on SSO or Building 730 Reception noticeboard on the day for the room details.

Learning Resources

It is recommended that you have access to the following texts:

Hanks, G., Doyle, D., Calman, C. and Cherny, N. (eds) (2003) Oxford Textbook of Palliative Medicine 3rd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Twycross, R., Wilcock, A., Charlesworth, S., Dickman, A. (2002). Palliative Care Formulary. 4th Edition. Abingdon: Radcliffe Medical Press.

Twycross, R. G., Wilcock, A., & Stark Toller, C. (2009). *Symptom management in advanced cancer* (4th ed.). Nottingham, England: Palliativedrugs.com.

MacLeod, R., Vella-Brincat, J. & MacLeod, A. D. (2006). The Palliative Care Handbook, 3rd Edition. New Zealand: Caxton Press.

Assessment

Two written assignments	35% each
Three short cases (vignettes) – case based (300 words each)	10% each

'Turnitin' is a recommended tool for students to screen assignments (applicable to assignments 1 and 2) for plagiarism.

Programme and Course Advice

This course is multidisciplinary in approach and suitable for students eligible for postgraduate study. Health professionals who have fulfilled the admission requirements for postgraduate study are able to enrol in this course. Doctors enrolling in the Medical Science schedule are required to have a current registration with the Medical Council of New Zealand or alternatively can enrol in the Health Science schedule.

Postgraduate nursing students who wish to enrol in a Postgraduate Diploma in Health Science are advised to contact the School of Nursing for guidance on a recommended pathway and core courses that need to be completed.

POPLPRAC 723 Advanced Symptom Management in Palliative Care is offered in the second semester as a follow up to this course.

Other courses that may be of interest are POPLHLTH 746 Ethics, Culture and Societal Approaches to Death, POPLPRAC 720 Psychosocial Issues in Palliative Care, POPLPRAC 721 Reflective Practice in Palliative Care, POPLPRAC 724 Child and Adolescent palliative Care and POPLPRAC 701 Therapeutic Communication.