

Person-Centred Palliative Care Education

Janice Logan,
Lecturer in Palliative Care/ Programme Leader, Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care, St Columba's Hospice;
Margaret Colquhoun,
Senior Nurse Lecturer, St Columba's Hospice;
Ailsa Espie,
Nurse Lecturer, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh.

Introduction

Palliative and end-of-life care are based on need not diagnosis and provide the unique opportunity to relieve distress while influencing the experience of those who will be left behind^{1,2,3}.

The key principles acknowledge that the focus of care must be the person living with, and dying from, advanced progressive disease and their family. While care that is person-centred recognises the needs of the patient and their family⁴, this concept can be reflected in the requirement that person-centred education prioritises the needs of the student.



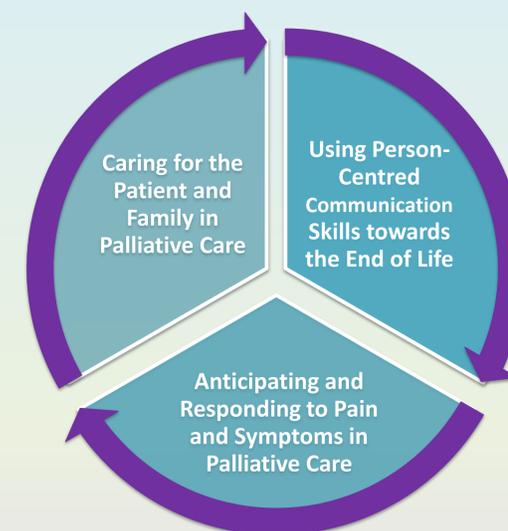
Palliative Care Education

Over many years St Columba's Hospice Education Department, in collaboration with Queen Margaret University, offered the BSc in Professional Practice - Palliative Care Approach. Changes to pre-registration nurse education⁵ reduced the need to provide a degree in palliative care although a cohort of health and social care professionals remains who seek degree level studies. Rigorous review of the degree programme resulted in a shorter, more flexible and interdisciplinary course.



The Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care:

- Aims to enable registered health and social care practitioners, working in a range of settings - community, hospital, hospice and care home – to develop critical knowledge and skills in caring for people with advanced progressive disease and their families in the palliative care phase of illness and at the end of life
- Is designed to be person-centred in terms of content and student-centred in terms of the teaching/ learning approach
- Consists of three 20 point modules at Scottish Credit Qualification Credit Framework level 9.



The course is planned so that the student can either:

- On successful completion of all 3 modules, achieve the Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care
- Use the credit towards degree completion
- Access individual modules for Continuing Professional Development.