



Whose role is it anyways? Using pamphlets to activate early conversations about end-of-life care in long-term care

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Canadian Frailty Network

Réseau canadien des soins aux personnes fragilisées

Known previously as Technology Evaluation in the Elderly Network, TVN

RESEARCH TOPIC

- The development and the reported usefulness of pamphlets used by staff to help facilitate end-of-life (EOL) conversations with residents and families at long-term care (LTC) homes

OBJECTIVES

- This study explores the development and use of five condition-specific pamphlets aimed at supporting LTC staffs' capacity to (a) inform residents and families about the trajectory of their primary medical condition and (b) initiate conversations about EOL care

DESIGN

- First, the research team created educational pamphlets outlining the expectations and trajectories specific to one of five conditions of high prevalence in LTC
- Feedback was collected from ten condition-specific experts, two palliative care experts, and 33 palliative leads to explore the accuracy, readability, and relevance of the pamphlet information
- Using refined versions of the pamphlets, data was collected from 178 LTC staff in four participating homes to assess usability and staff comfort

RESULTS

- Consultants and experts reported that, overall, the information was accurate and well-described
- 83 out of 105 (79%) staff that had read the final version of the pamphlet suggested that the information was relevant to families and residents
- The barrier of staff discomfort regarding EOL discussions can be addressed by written material on the topic

IMPLICATIONS

- Having access to condition-specific pamphlets provides LTC staff with the opportunity to initiate and mediate EOL conversations with residents and their families
- Future research should focus on formal training LTC staff on their comfort with pamphlet distribution as well as exploring the role that non-registered staff play with regards to pamphlet distribution