

Clinical Nurse Specialist Masterclass: A Community of Practice across Scotland



Claire McCullough¹, Flora Watson¹, Frances MacIvor¹

¹ Roxburghe House, NHS Grampian

Abbreviated abstract: The Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) role involves providing education, however, opportunities for their own learning and development can be limited. Throughout 2020 two communities of practice involving 33 CNS, who provide palliative and end of life care across NHS Grampian, Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles, were able to enhance their knowledge and skills through a monthly 'Masterclass'. Additional benefits included connecting with colleagues and learning from shared experiences.

Related publications:

1. NHS Education for Scotland (2021) Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions (NMAHP) Development Framework. (Available: www.careerframework.nes.scot.nhs.uk)
2. Andrew, N. et al (2008) Building on Wenger: Communities of practice in nursing, *Nurse Education Today*; 28, pp. 246-252

Claire.mccullough@nhs.scot -1

This poster is part of
the SPPC Poster
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The logo for the Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care, featuring a stylized blue 'C' shape with the text 'Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care' inside and around it.

The challenge and our response

The Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) role involves providing education as one of the four pillars of practice¹ but opportunities for their own learning and development can be limited.

The specialist palliative care service, based at Roxburghe House, provide clinical support and advice to the CNS across NHS Grampian, Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles.

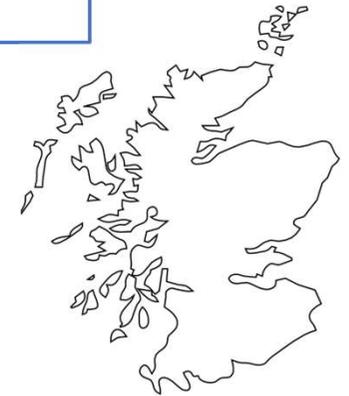
Our Aim

To enhance the knowledge and skills of CNS who provide palliative and end of life care (PEOLC) within a supportive peer group using a model of Communities of Practice (CoP)².

'We are finding it increasingly difficult to access training.'

CNS, survey response Dec 2021

Communities of Practice *'can provide a **platform for collaborative learning**, leading to **practice development** and the creation, management and dissemination of **new knowledge**.'*²



Methods: What we did

CNS providing PEOLC from NHS Grampian, Orkney, Shetland and Western Isles were invited to participate in a Community of Practice.

Two groups formed and met monthly between Jan - Dec 2020 for 40-50 mins, with the exception of April and May due to Covid 19.

Topics discussed were chosen by participants. A guest speaker delivered a short presentation and facilitated discussion on each topic. To account for geographic location of participants, sessions initially took place using a hybrid of face to face and virtual. As a result of the Covid pandemic the sessions moved onto MS Teams.

Topics Covered

Delirium	Interpreting blood results
Methadone	Nausea + vomiting
Neuropathic pain	Pharmacy update
Paraneoplastic syndrome, Theory	Paraneoplastic syndrome, Case study
Steroids	Switching Opioids
Values Based Reflective Practice	Venting Gastrostomies

Participants were invited to feedback via an online survey at the end of 12 months.

Results

From January to December 2020

- 33 CNS joined a CoP
- 15 Masterclass sessions took place
- Total attendance across sessions - 163

CNS were represented geographically across the 4 Health Boards and within community, hospital and hospice settings.

Conclusion

The Masterclass CoP has been a viable model to create belonging, collaboration and enhance knowledge and skills for CNS providing PEOLC across Scotland.

Claire.mccullough@nhs.scot - 4

'Great refresher and opportunity to share experiences, particularly appreciated during lockdown.'

Online Survey

24 of 33 participants completed the online survey in December 2020. All respondents wished for the groups to continue

Three themes from the survey:



Refreshing and gaining evidence based knowledge



Connecting with colleagues



Sharing experience



'It has allowed me to pass on up to date information with more confidence.'

'Being able to attend virtually has been helpful.'

'Useful to have peer feedback when supporting patients with complex needs.'