

# Experiential Learning of Specialist Palliative Care for 3rd Year Nursing Students

Emma Dunbar, Clinical Nurse Specialist Ninewells Hospital Palliative Care Team (HPCT);  
Jacqueline Scott, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Team Lead, HPCT.

## What we did

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Pre-registration Nursing Students on placement in oncology are offered a day shadowing the Ninewells Hospital Palliative Care Team (HPCT) to gain a better understanding of specialist palliative care.
- Students' knowledge, understanding and confidence were assessed pre and post experience
- Students' qualitative feedback gathered.

## Why we did this piece of work

- Requested from students/mentors
- To supplement palliative care education for nursing students
- After qualifying, nurses will be involved in the care of patients with palliative care needs regardless of speciality.

## Something I'm going to do differently and take away



"Including the family in conversations about end-of-life care"

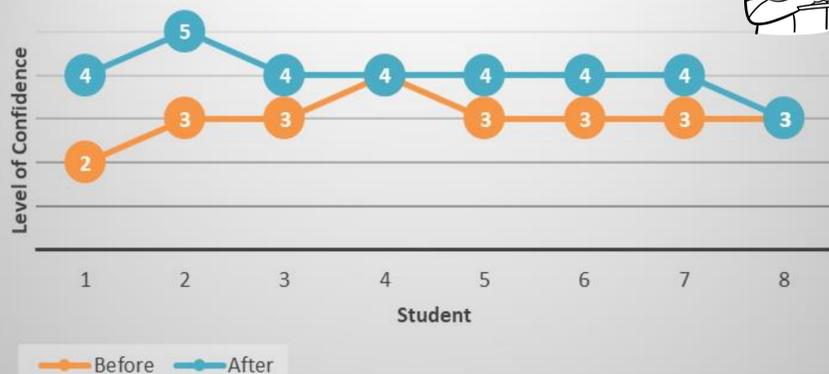
"I will have more confidence when it comes to difficult conversations with patients and their family"

"Seeing the patient and not the condition"

"Taking the time with patients and family to communicate and discuss their thoughts, feelings and goals"

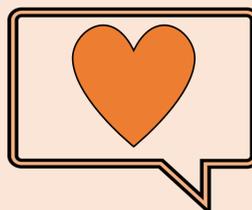
## Data

### Self Assessment of Confidence in Palliative Care



Students self-assessed their confidence in palliative care at the start and end of the day scoring from 0 – 5; 0 – Not Confident 5 – Very Confident

## Something I've felt I experienced from being here



"There's many positives in having difficult chats, it was very eye opening to see how calm the patient and the nurse are when talking"

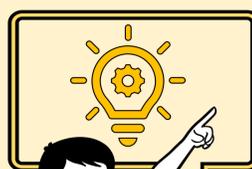
"Empathy and compassion"

"How holistic and person-centred care helps patients and their family"

"Compassion and care"

"Respect and dignity of the patient and family"

## Something I've learnt from being part of today



"I learnt more about different opioids/drugs used in EOLC and why"

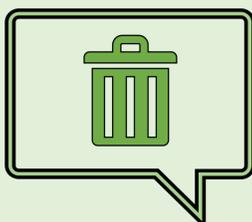
"Every patient is different. Listen more than I talk, this will build their trust in me and help them be more open about how they feel"

"Just in Case drugs"

"Opioid analgesia ladder. Think about absorption of opioid"

"I have learnt that palliative care is not always sad"

## Anything I would like to change or that was not so good about being part of today



"There is nothing that I would change - the HPCT have been amazing, and I have learnt things that I never knew before."

"I am more aware of the wider input that the HPCT have within Ninewells, and I have had an amazing time learning"

## Next Steps

- Widen access to HPCT shadowing opportunities to all 3rd year nursing students in the hospital.
- Collaboration with the University of Dundee to understand palliative care learning outcomes within the current Undergraduate Nursing curriculum and the role of the HPCT in supporting this.
- Explore opportunities to facilitate interprofessional learning between nursing and medical students.