

INTEGRATION OF PALLIATIVE CARE INTO PRE-SERVICE TRAINING OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS – INSTITUTIONAL PERSPECTIVES

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Sciences



Palliative Care: an essential part of medical and nursing training



INTRODUCTION

- Demographic transition – aging population changing disease profile
- Integration of Palliative Care into training and eventually into overall Health System
- Stakeholders analysis and engagements
- Understanding institutional contexts and regulations
- Staged process swing results
- Leadership support



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ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

- Involvement of FOH in meetings & conferences
- Undergraduate – Palliative Care rotations
- Development of Distance Learning Diploma Curriculum & Implementation
- Development of Bachelor of Science Palliative Care Curriculum
- Master of Medicine (Internal Medicine –Palliative Care)
- Negotiation of Chair and Unit under Department of Internal Medicine



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SUCCESSSES

- Secured policy change permitting Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Officers to dispense oral morphine
- 4th Medical students under Palliative Care rotations & electives
- DLD – PC approved and running for 8 years, graduates all over Africa
- BSc –PC curriculum developed & submitted
- Student - MMED (IM –PC)
- Palliative Care Unit soon to be established



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CHALLENGES

- Policies difficult to change – Civil service
- Universities resistant to change
- Difficult to secure consensus – stakeholders diverse with varying perspectives
- Hesitation of Health Professionals re: pain management
- Inadequacy of Human, Financial & Space resources



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Gap & Policy analysis
- Research to inform policy
- Engage stakeholders – constant supply of information according to requirement
- Training and dissemination of success stories
- Shared vision, clear objectives, priority actions and budget
- Centre of excellence - Research and Training



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Wonderful audience



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Values

What kind of doctor would you want for your family?

How can integrating palliative care into a medical school curriculum support whole doctors offering whole person care?



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Stories

*'I came here to learn some palliative medicine....
instead I was reminded what medicine was all
about.'*

*'now I remember why I wanted to become a
doctor'*

*'many issues and principles of Palliative Care are
the same – no matter what country you belong
to. Suffering and death are great equalisers but
so are compassion and love'*

