

FACT SHEET

PCC4U

PALLIATIVE CARE
CURRICULUM FOR
UNDERGRADUATES

Funded by the Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

What is PCC4U?

The Palliative Care Curriculum for Undergraduates (PCC4U) project aims to promote and sustain the inclusion of the principles and practice of palliative care in all health care training. It supports the inclusion of palliative care through the provision of:

- a suite of evidence-based student and facilitator learning resources
- capacity building and professional development activities.

PCC4U resources

- have been implemented in a range of undergraduate and entry to practice health professional courses
- can be used to support learning and teaching for students from any health discipline
- support the development of graduates in the health professions who, within the scope of practice of their profession, are able to demonstrate the graduate capabilities in the context of caring for a person with a life limiting illness.

Developing the learning resources

The PCC4U learning resources were developed following a range of consultative activities and evidence reviews. The resources are subject to regular review and update in response to emerging priorities and evidence in palliative care.

The graduate capabilities are based on four core capabilities identified as being integral for health professionals to provide a palliative approach to care for persons with a life-limiting illness:

- effective communication in the context of an individual's responses to loss and grief, existential challenges, uncertainty and changing goals of care
- appreciation of and respect for the diverse human and clinical responses of each individual throughout their illness trajectory
- understanding of principles for assessment and management of clinical and supportive care needs
- the capacity for reflection and self evaluation of one's professional and personal experiences and their cumulative impact on the self and others.



What are the PCC4U learning resources?

Palliative care learning modules

A series of student-centred learning modules and focus topics are available online and on CD. The modules focus on developing graduate capabilities in palliative care and include a case study, video vignettes and current references.

The four modules are:

- Principles of palliative care
- Communicating with people who have a life-limiting illness
- Clinical assessment and intervention in palliative care
- Optimising function in palliative care.

The focus topics aim to support the care of specific populations with life-limiting illness and the provision of palliative care in a variety of contexts. They include a topic *Caring for Aboriginal people with life-limiting illnesses*. All module and topic content can be accessed at www.pcc4u.org

Each module and topic includes a range of active learning activities designed to develop one or more of the graduate capabilities for health professionals in palliative care. These learning activities provide opportunities to:

- explore key practice concepts relevant to the capability
- understand the experience of individuals living with a life limiting condition
- promote critical reflection and apply learning
- consider expert's opinions and experiences of practice in the field
- identify and review current evidence and information resources.

Each module and topic includes key learning tools to achieve these outcomes, including a series of 'thinking points' and a separate video case scenario integrated throughout the module. The video case scenario provides an opportunity to meet an individual with a life limiting condition at various points in their journey, reflect on the experience of individuals and apply concepts to practice.

Depending on desired learning outcomes, the modules can be used in whole or in part and delivered in a range of different formats including:

- workshop activities
- lecture presentations
- interactive tutorials
- group discussions.
- self-directed learning

Principles for including palliative care in undergraduate curricula

This publication provides a framework and guiding principles for curriculum design, implementation and evaluation in relation to palliative care education for undergraduates. Content includes:

- graduate capabilities in palliative care
- core values underpinning the learning and teaching of palliative care
- benchmarks for inclusion of the palliative approach in undergraduate curricula
- teaching, learning and assessment strategies.

Online teaching and learning resource compendium

The website www.pcc4u.org includes a comprehensive and current compilation of resources to support the inclusion of palliative care in health curricula. It includes:

- relevant texts and academic reference materials
- useful web links
- audio visual resources to support student learning in palliative care
- curriculum examples in palliative care
- popular literature and resources.

Teaching and learning support

The PCC4U project supports the inclusion of palliative care through the implementation of a range of capacity-building professional development and partnership opportunities. These include:

- delivering teaching and learning workshops for academics and clinicians in *Promoting quality teaching and learning in undergraduate palliative care education*
- providing assistance with curriculum mapping and integration of the project resources
- providing opportunities for expanding clinical and academic networks to enhance student clinical learning
- monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the PCC4U resources
- supporting innovative palliative care curriculum and clinical education initiatives
- supporting communities of practice in palliative care education.

www.pcc4u.org