

HPNA Team Conference Abstract: September 28-29, 2023, Virtual Event

Title: C05 - Integrating Palliative Care into Home Health Care: Assessing Knowledge, Attitudes, and Confidence among Clinicians, Patients, and Caregivers

Presenters: Jung A. Kang, Komal P. Murali

Abstract: Palliative care aims to reduce suffering and improve quality of life for serious ill patients and their families across all care settings. Integrating palliative care into home health care (HHC) setting has the potential to improve outcomes for seriously ill adults by reducing symptom burden, enhancing the quality of life, promoting advance care planning, and minimizing caregiver burden. However, the successful integration of palliative care into HHC depends on the ability, preparedness, and confidence of the interdisciplinary care team in HHC to provide such care and on the acceptance of care by HHC patients and their families. Using a novel questionnaire that incorporates the eight domains of palliative care outlined by the National Consensus Project (NCP) for Quality Palliative Care, we conducted a pilot study with 30 HHC clinicians and 30 HHC patients/caregivers. We assessed the palliative care-related knowledge and attitudes among HHC clinicians, patients, and caregivers, as well as their confidence to deliver palliative care in HHC. Especially, we included role-specific (for nurses, therapists, social workers, informal caregivers) items to assess unique role-based understanding of palliative care. Broader dissemination of the questionnaires will help identify gaps in palliative care knowledge, attitudes and confidence, thus highlighting areas for education and training needs for each clinician, patients and informal caregivers.