

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Title: Integrating Palliative Care into Home Health Care: Assessing Knowledge, Attitudes, and Confidence among U.S. Clinicians, Patients, and Caregivers

Authors: Dr. Jingjing Shang, PhD, RN, FAAN, OCN¹, Dr. Ashley Chastain, DrPH, MPH¹, Dr. Komal Murali, PhD, RN, ACNP-BC², Ms. Lori King, MPH³, Ms. Jung Kang, RN, AGACNP-BC, AGCNS-BC¹, Dr. Charity Ogunlusi, MD, MPH¹, Ms. Khadra Dualeh, MPH¹, Ms. Suning Zhao, MPH¹, Ms. Margaret McDonald, MSW³

¹Columbia University School of Nursing, New York, NY, USA. ²NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing, New York, NY, USA. ³VNSHealth, New York, NY, USA

In the United States, home healthcare (HHC) is vital for older adults with complex health needs - the population benefiting most from home-based palliative care (PC). However, only 7% of home-based PC programs in the U.S. are operated by HHC agencies. To better integrate PC into HHC, understanding the HHC workforce's readiness and patient/caregiver receptiveness are crucial. Guided by the 2018 National Consensus Project Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care, we developed questionnaires to measure PC-related knowledge, attitudes, and confidence among U.S. HHC clinicians, patients, and caregivers.

The questionnaires consist of 3 sections: knowledge, attitudes, and confidence. They have 56 items for patients/caregivers and 95 for clinicians, including core, clinician role-specific, and caregiver-specific items. Cognitive interviews with 10 clinicians and 10 patients/caregivers were conducted; feedback helped improve survey clarity and content. Item review by experts in HHC and PC ensured content validity. Finally, we piloted the questionnaires with 28 patients/caregivers and 30 clinicians, assessing reliability over a 14-day interval. Results demonstrated high agreement across all sections. Clinicians display adequate knowledge and positive PC attitudes, but varied levels of confidence in providing PC. Patients and caregivers, while having limited PC knowledge, viewed PC positively.

We developed the first HHC-specific questionnaires that assess clinician readiness and the receptiveness of patients/caregivers to PC. This lays the groundwork for integrating PC into HHC. Wider questionnaire distribution of questionnaires can identify training needs. Findings will enable us to customize interventions, further refining the integration of PC into HHC practice.

AUTHOR



Dr Ashley Chastain
Senior Project Director
Columbia University School of Nursing, United States of America

Dr Ashley Chastain is a Senior Project Director at the Columbia University School of Nursing. While at Columbia, she has been involved with several NIH-funded studies exploring infection prevention and control in the post-acute care environment, as well as an intramurally-funded project assessing palliative care knowledge, attitudes and confidence among home health clinicians and patients/caregivers.

Dr Chastain has extensive experience using mixed methods, particularly qualitative and survey methodologies. She has a bachelor's degree in microbiology from Indiana University-Bloomington, a master in public health degree from University of South Carolina, and a doctorate in public health from the City University of New York.