

00084 Singapore Healthcare Professionals Perception on Palliative Care in Emergency Department: A Qualitative Study

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Aims: To explore the perspectives and attitudes of healthcare providers regarding PC delivery in the ED.

Methodology: Descriptive qualitative design using purposive sampling was utilized. Data collection was conducted via semi-structured focus group interviews led by focus group moderators. Our focus groups comprised of physicians, nurses and medical social workers from various departments such as emergency, palliative care and internal medicine from one acute hospital in Singapore. Thematic analysis was used to identify emerging themes from the focus group interviews.

Result: Three themes emerged from this study. (1) Providing comfort is essential in PC delivery. (2) Dissonance between participants' beliefs and attitudes of PC delivery at ED. (3) Barriers and recommendations to improve PC delivery.

Conclusion: Singapore healthcare professionals believe that providing comfort is the goal of care for patients with PC needs. Participants face barriers at personal, institutional and systemic levels, resulting in dissonance between their beliefs and attitudes. However, participants recognise the need to improve PC delivery in the ED; which may include early PC referral, inter-professional education and creating a conducive environment for the patient.