

Education and Training in Advance Care Planning (ACP)



End-of-life Care Capacity Building Program – Training To Healthcare Professionals to Facilitate ACP

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Background: Advance care planning (ACP) has the potential to address patients' end-of-life care needs. ACP is relatively new to the public in Hong Kong, but older adults and patients with progressive and life-limiting illnesses are beginning to embrace the concept. As such, frontline healthcare professionals need to have a good understanding of the concepts as well as the skills to initiate such conversation. The end-of-life care (EOLC) capacity-building program of the Institute of Ageing, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, is part of the Jockey Club End-of-life Community Care Project since 2015. It has been training healthcare professionals of the public hospitals in the New Territories East Cluster. And since 2022, the training sessions are extended to the Hong Kong West and East Clusters. Although the Hospital Authority has guidelines for clinicians in promoting ACP to the appropriate patients, there are barriers. Through the EOLC program, training sessions relating to ACP have been implemented to enhance the clinician's knowledge, skills and attitude. The participants' feedback on the ACP training can be used to enhance the quality of future training.

Methods: Data of the evaluation feedback of the participants from 2019-2021 in ACP are analyzed and summarized here.

Results: The results are categorized in terms of the quality of the training, knowledge, skills and attitude in ACP, and application to clinical settings.

Conclusion: The overall quality and practicality of the training were well received. There is an enhancement in both knowledge and skills in addressing the training needs of healthcare professionals in ACP. The enhancing attitude towards ACP is also observed.

Quantitative evaluation results of the training to doctors

Domain	Item	N	M	SD
Knowledge	increase knowledge of EoL care	191	3.84	0.73
	clarify misconceptions about EoL care	108	4.12	0.64
	raise awareness of EoL care	107	4.25	0.53
	improve skills in communicating with EoL patients and their family members	108	4.16	0.57
Attitude	improve confidence in communicating with EoL patients and their family members	190	3.76	0.75
	increase motivation to initiate EoL conversations	107	4.04	0.66
Behaviour	initiate more EoL conversations	188	3.65	0.80
Satisfaction	the training is relevant	191	3.85	0.79
	the training is important	191	3.91	0.79
	the training is useful	191	3.92	0.78
	the quality of the training is good	187	4.12	0.65

Note. Respondents rated the extent to which they agreed with each statement in the questionnaire (1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree). The items as shown above captured the psychological constructs that these statements measured, but were not necessarily the actual wording displayed to the respondents. All results were aggregated, whenever applicable, across all training sessions.

Quantitative evaluation results of the training to nurses

Domain	Item	N	M	SD
Knowledge	increase knowledge of EoL care	2,073	4.09	0.57
	raise awareness of EoL care	2,054	4.12	0.57
	improve skills in communicating with EoL patients and their family members	2,005	4.08	0.57
Attitude	improve confidence in communicating with EoL patients and their family members	2,025	4.06	0.56
	increase motivation to initiate EoL conversations	2,007	4.00	0.60
Behaviour	initiate more EoL conversations	2,007	4.00	0.59
Satisfaction	the training is relevant	2,088	4.09	0.61
	the training is important	2,089	4.09	0.59
	the training is useful	2,088	4.07	0.61
	the quality of the training is good	2,082	4.12	0.55

Note. Respondents rated the extent to which they agreed with each statement in the questionnaire (1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree). The items as shown above captured the psychological constructs as measured by these statements, but were not necessarily the actual wording displayed to the respondents. All results were aggregated, whenever applicable, across all training sessions.

Quantitative evaluation results of training to allied healthcare professionals

Domain	Item	N	M	SD
Knowledge	increase knowledge of EoL care	249	3.55	0.68
	raise awareness of EoL care	97	4.10	0.53
	improve skills in communicating with EoL patients and their family members	39	3.95	0.56
Attitude	improve confidence in communicating with EoL patients and their family members	190	3.32	0.62
	increase motivation to initiate EoL conversations	39	3.87	0.61
Behaviour	initiate more EoL conversations	162	3.09	0.77
Satisfaction	the training is relevant	266	3.59	0.76
	the training is important	266	3.56	0.73
	the training is useful	263	3.53	0.75
	the quality of the training is good	263	4.06	0.78

Note. Respondents rated the extent to which they agreed with each statement in the questionnaire (1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree). The items as shown above captured the psychological constructs as measured by these statements, but were not necessarily the actual wording displayed to the respondents. All results were aggregated, whenever applicable, across all training sessions.

Training sessions on ACP communication skills for nurses

