

Complex Care Curriculum: Palliative Care Instructor Guide

PURPOSE:

Children with special health care needs (CSHCN) are increasingly prevalent in US hospitals. The pediatric hospitalist is often the primary provider of inpatient care for these patients. However, exposure to this patient population during training varies from provider to provider. No published educational curricula are specific to the inpatient care of this population. The purpose of this project is to build a multi-modal educational curriculum for providers with the overall goal of improving inpatient care for this at-risk population.

This curriculum is composed primarily of a series of topic-specific learning modules. Asynchronous learning modules, utilized appropriately, can augment learning by providing individualized instruction and mastery of fundamentals.

This particular resource was created as part of the Complex Care Curriculum to provide educational materials related to **palliative care** for the medically complex child. Although originally created for pediatric hospitalists, this resource can be used by any pediatric health care providers including trainees who care for this patient population.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Know the definition and general principles of pediatric palliative care
- Identify opportunities to initiate palliative care
- Plan communication of prognosis to families
- Recognize the role of the provider in supporting families with decision-making
- Describe the role of the multidisciplinary team
- Outline some fundamental principles of pain management
- Discuss common dilemmas and ethical issues that arise in pediatric palliative care
- Recognize limitations and barriers in providing pediatric palliative care

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:

For Individual Self-Study: Microsoft Office 2007 (including Powerpoint and Word) or higher, and System Speakers or headphones

Please note for optimal audio performance when using Office 2007, please download the following upgrade:
<http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=13>

For Small Group Facilitation: Microsoft Office 2007 (including Powerpoint and Word) or higher

CONTENT:

- This curriculum is composed of a series of topics, please be sure to view the other topics linked to this resource
- The contents of this learning activity include Microsoft Word and Powerpoint files as listed below and can be used in two types of learning environments: Individual Self-Study (with audio) and Small Group Teaching (without audio).
- **Palliative Care**
 - Complete Facilitator Guide [[CCCPallCare_Facilitator Guide.doc](#)]
 - Guide for Non-Audio Module [[CCCPallCare_Nonaudio Guide.doc](#)]
 - Guide for Supplementary Cases [[CCCPallCare_Supplementary_Cases_Guide.docx](#)]
 - Pre and Post Test Questions [[CCCPallCare_Questions.docx](#)]
 - Pre and Post Test Answer Key with Explanations [[CCCPallCare_Answer Key.docx](#)]
 - Evaluation [[CCCPallCare_Evaluation.doc](#)]

- Complete List of References [[CCCPallCare_References.docx](#)]

FOR INDIVIDUAL SELF-STUDY: Module with Audio [[PalliativeCare_AudioNarration.ppsx](#)]

FOR SMALL GROUP TEACHING: Powerpoint Slides without Audio [[PalliativeCare_No_Audio.pptx](#)]

Supplementary Cases Powerpoint Slides

[[PalliativeCare_Supplementary_Cases.pptx](#)]

USE: Dual Use

- These modules can be used for self-study: the individual learner can view the powerpoint-based module with audio voice-over on their own computer
- These modules can be used for small group teaching: the facilitator can discuss the topic using the powerpoint slides and notes included in the facilitator guide
- Learners should first complete the pre-test questions
- Learners should then review the learning module/powerpoint slides
- Learners can review any other reference materials provided (optional)
- Learners will finish the activity by completing the post-test questions and finishing the evaluation for submission to the instructor

FOR INDIVIDUAL SELF-STUDY:

MODULE INSTRUCTIONS:

- The Palliative Care Module is about 45 minutes in duration.
- All of the learning modules are presented as Powerpoint Shows (file extension *.ppsx*).
- Before beginning a module, please ensure that your computer sound system volume is set at a level that is audible
- We highly recommend that after starting the presentation, you listen and view it in its entirety
- The slides will advance on their own without need for you to click through. If you manually advance the slides, it may interrupt the audio narration



Palliative Care for the Medically Complex Child

Melanie Anspacher, MD
Neha Shah, MD

- You can repeat any portion of the presentation, including the audio, by **using the navigation bar on the left side of the screen (see image below)**. You can click on any of the corresponding tabs to jump to that section. As you proceed through the module, the section you are in will be highlighted on the navigation menu.



- Do not use the mouse or arrow keys to go backward during the slideshow because the audio will be interrupted. Instead, use the navigation menu to start that section over again
- You may have opportunities during the presentation to view references or resources pertaining to that section or to answer questions by manually clicking on the corresponding buttons.
- You can pause the show at any time by using the Powerpoint toolbar on the bottom left corner of the screen (as in any Powerpoint presentation)
- You can end the show at any time by using the Powerpoint toolbar on the bottom left or by hitting the escape button
- Finally, each module contains a reference section that includes the resources used by the authors to create the content of the module.

FOR SMALL GROUP TEACHING:

FACILITATOR GUIDE: Please see included Non-Audio Guide [[CCCPallCare_Nonaudio Guide.doc](#)] for detailed discussion points for each slide in the module.

CURRENT USE:

This curriculum, including this specific learning activity, was first launched at Children’s National Medical Center (CNMC) in Washington, DC in February 2012. Pediatric hospitalist faculty and fellows at CNMC have clinical responsibilities at a subacute rehabilitation hospital as well as on an inpatient consultative service for medically complex children. In an effort to provide an educational resource to them to augment their patient care, the authors conducted a needs assessment of the division and conceived the idea for this curriculum based on the feedback they received. It was piloted at CNMC and 26 hospitalists and hospitalist fellows volunteered to review all of the modules.

The most common pitfalls encountered by users included the following:

- Participants did not have Microsoft Office 2007 or higher
- Participants did not have speakers for their computers
- Participants did not check the volume setting on their computer prior to launching

It is best for users to download all of the resource files to their desktop and then run the module from there. In addition, as outlined in the instructions above, altering computer settings prior to viewing will aid in avoiding the above common pitfalls.

Impact on knowledge, skills and attitudes was assessed during the study period (February 2012-June 2012). Fifteen study participants completed the **palliative care** module. Of these participants, 93% either agreed or strongly agreed that the module increased their comfort with the topic and that it would change their clinical practice. All agreed that the learning format was appropriate to their learning needs. Based on this study, this module along with others in the curriculum continues to be offered to trainees and new faculty to augment their knowledge and skills in this area. Pediatric residents, fellows and faculty have accessed the module independently or have participated in non-audio presentations. In addition, the module may be adapted and offered to health care providers outside the hospitalist division who care for this patient population. The Supplementary Cases were created subsequent to the study and thus were not included in the evaluation.

REFLECTION ON LIMITATIONS:

A multi-step process was undertaken in the development of this module. The topic of pediatric palliative care is a vast topic. The module content was researched and written in consultation with experts in the field who are acknowledged in the presentation as well as the co-author. Content slides were developed and then enhanced with media and animation to facilitate learning.

The module is specifically focused on palliative care for the complex medical child, not for other populations such as children with cancer or neonates. The module is intended to be an overview, not a complete reference on the topic.

This module is geared toward pediatric providers who do not have significant expertise or experience in palliative care. Palliative care providers may find the content of this module basic and thus this is not intended to be instructional for those practicing or boarded in palliative care.

The non-audio presentation has not yet been tested or evaluated in a small group setting. However, many of the topics covered in the module are very amenable to small group interactive discussion.