

Improving Access to Palliative Care for Heart Failure Patients in England Using a Health Systems Approach

Authors : Alex Hughes

Abstract : Patients with advanced heart failure develop specific palliative care needs due to the progressive symptom burden and unpredictable disease trajectory. NICE guidance advises that palliative care should be provided to patients with both cancer and non-cancer conditions as and when required. However, there is some way to go before this guidance is consistently and effectively implemented nationwide in conditions such as heart failure. The Ambitions for Palliative and End of Life Care: A national framework for local action in England provides a set of foundations and ambitions which outline a vision for what high-quality palliative and end-of-life care look like in England. This poster aims to critically consider how to improve access to palliative care for heart failure patients in England by analysing the foundations taken from this framework to generate specific recommendations using Soft Systems Methodology (SSM). The eight foundations analysed are: 'Personalised care planning', 'Shared records', 'Evidence and information', 'Involving, supporting and caring for those important to the dying Person', 'Education and training', '24/7 access', 'Co-design' and 'Leadership.' A number of specific recommendations have been generated which highlight a need to close the evidence-policy gap and implement policy with sufficient evidence. These recommendations, alongside the creation of an evidence-based national strategy for palliative care and heart failure, should improve access to palliative care for heart failure patients in England. Once implemented, it will be necessary to evaluate the effect of these proposals to understand if access to palliative care for heart failure patients actually improves.

Keywords : access, health systems, heart failure, palliative care

Conference Title : ICPCST 2022 : International Conference on Palliative Care and Supportive Therapies

Conference Location : London, United Kingdom

Conference Dates : March 11-12, 2022