

## Promoting Effective Practice in Palliative Care

### Level 7 – 15 credits

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#### Who is it for?

This multi-professional course unit is for qualified health care professionals. This course unit may be taken as a stand-alone course unit or subject to approval, as part of a new postgraduate Masters degree programme to commence September 2015 (subject to any pre or co-requisite units). For further information and entry requirements see: <http://www.nursing.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate/cpd/modules/>

#### Course Unit Aims:

This unit aims to enable students to:

- Critically examine concepts and the nature of palliative care to support patients and families experience life-limiting illness
- Develop the in-depth knowledge and skills required to provide evidence based interventions to enable patients and families to experience life-limiting illness with minimum distress

#### What will I learn?

Palliative care is increasingly seen as an essential aspect of care for individuals with malignant and non-malignant life-limiting illness. This unit, taught over one semester, provides participants with learning opportunities designed to enhance their existing knowledge and skills and facilitate them in making professional, evidence based interventions in collaboration with patients and family members. The unit focuses on palliative care being practised alongside curative forms of treatment with individual well-being as a central feature of patient care. Moreover the unit recognises that palliative care extends to include a range of psychosocial interventions including bereavement support, which may be initiated before and after the patient's death.

#### How is the course assessed?

Course participants are required to submit a 3500-word assignment written in the form of an academic paper, which may be considered for publication in a palliative care journal. The assignment format is not overly prescriptive although supplementary material gleaned from guidelines for authors provided by publishers will be used to assist in structure and presentation. The assignment should demonstrate the relevance of the topic to contemporary palliative care and include a clear theoretical/ professional framework. Moreover the work should consider the wider implications of the topic for improving patient family care and or professional provision.

#### Teaching and Learning methods:

Learning and teaching processes include lectures, discussions, small group work, role play, use of on-line materials and discussion; individual tutorials. Specific on-line activities will involve directed study requiring students to post feedback and contribute to on-line discussions related to a problem based case study scenario. Student feedback will be monitored by the course leader who will interact with students on line.

## **Learning Outcomes**

*Successful students will be able to:*

### **Knowledge and Understanding**

- Develop in depth knowledge and understanding of the concept and principles of palliative care in order to understand their relevance to contemporary care needs in a range of contexts
- Demonstrate a critical and in depth understanding of methods and tools to assess and measure palliative care needs and the ways in which outcomes of such care may be evaluated and measured.
- Critically explore the concept, utility and relevance of collaborative teamwork and multi-disciplinary working within the context of supportive and palliative care.
- Critically evaluate a range of evidence-based interventions for palliative care and how they may be utilised to help patients and support family and friends.

### **Intellectual Skills**

- Critically analyse the concepts of health, holism and quality of living within the context of palliative care
- Critically appraise the effects of current and potential changes in health care need and policies, in relation to the provision of palliative care.
- Critically evaluate the impact of contemporary innovations in palliative care on patients and family
- Critically analyse a range of cultural issues impinging on the provision of palliative care

### **Practical Skills**

- Contribute towards the planning of palliative care and assist in coordinating and evaluating the impact of such care on the patient and family
- Participate in and contribute towards clinical decision making processes, basing judgments on sound ethical, theoretical, experiential and research based knowledge to effectively manage symptoms in practice which may arise as a consequence of the disease process.
- Develop therapeutic relationships with patient and family in order to empower and facilitate a sense of trust and openness
- Work collaboratively within the interdisciplinary team to enable optimal palliative care to be achieved within the available resources
- Provide supportive care to family members who may be experiencing a crisis, anticipate their needs and refer on to specialist services where appropriate.

### **Transferable Skills**

- Critically reflect on clinical experiences and academic performance and utilise a range of strategies to improve these and overcome any particular difficulties.
- Further develop and enhance skills in effective communication to a range of audiences in a variety of settings.
- Demonstrate skills in working collegiately and effectively with others as a member of a team
- Effectively utilise a range of information sources including information technology /health informatics
- Utilise skills in systematic and creative approaches to problem solving and decision-making in relation to complex issues

### **Attendance**

One day per week. Study dates are available online at

<http://www.nursing.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate/cpd/units/studydatesbyunit.pdf>

**Dates of next intake:**

February 2015

**NB.** Course unit availability will be subject to minimum numbers.

**Funding**

Funding for the programme or individual course units may be available through the CPD Service Level Agreement (SLA) for staff working in the NHS in Greater Manchester (and in the case of some course units the wider North West). To access SLA funding each course unit must be approved by an authorised SLA signatory on an individual basis. For more information applicants should contact the Education and Training lead within their organisation, Practice educator, or equivalent.

If not eligible for CPD SLA funding candidates may also apply with employer support or self-funding. The home fee for 2014-2015 will be £2010 for Level 7.

**How do I apply?**

Applications must be received by the University by 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014 for the January 2015 intake.

**If you are being funded by Service Level Agreement**, please contact your Trust and then apply online at [www.cpd-applynw.nhs.uk](http://www.cpd-applynw.nhs.uk)

- **Pre-requisites**

- At least 6 months experience of working in current area of practice
- A minimum of 18 months experience post registration
- A sound knowledge of the basic principles of palliative care
- Working at least 18 hours per week in practice
- Must be registered with the NMC – if NMC registration is not appropriate, applicants must have achieved GCSE English at grade C or above or equivalent.
- In addition to a recognised health professional qualification\*, all applicants require one of the following
  - A relevant honours first degree (2:2 or above, or equivalent) from an approved higher education institution
  - Evidence of previous advanced study, research or professional experience which the University accepts as qualifying the applicant for entry.

\*Health Professional in the context of this programme refers to registered Nurses, Midwives or Allied Healthcare Professionals (AHPs) in direct clinical contact with patients and registered as such with the UK NMC, HPC or their equivalent in other countries.

- **Supporting information and personal statement**

- Supporting information should include details of your current post and your role and previous study
- Personal Statement - In support of your application to study the module requested; please outline the reasons why you wish to undertake this course unit.

**If you are not being funded by SLA**, please see application information at <http://www.nursing.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate/cpd/coursedetails/> Above pre-requisites also apply. For other information, please telephone the Admissions Office on 0161 306 0270 or email [graduate.nursing@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:graduate.nursing@manchester.ac.uk)