THE COLLEGE OF NURSING and
THE MANITOBA CENTRE FOR NURSING AND HEALTH RESEARCH presents

Research Seminar

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Development and Administration of a Survey to Assess Healthcare Provider Knowledge, Competency, and Attitudes about Perinatal Palliative Care

Perinatal palliative care is an emerging area of health care. No published comprehensive tools assess health care provider's knowledge and level of comfort in providing perinatal palliative care.

A two-phase study was carried out to develop and administer a survey to evaluate perinatal palliative care knowledge, competency, and attitudes of nurses, physicians and midwives working in perinatal care. This presentation will briefly describe the development of the survey in phase one and focus on the key findings from phase two. Phase one included a literature search and review of palliative and death-related instruments used in a variety of health care populations. An initial draft of the Perinatal Palliative Care Survey (PPCS) was developed and 24 Canadian pediatric palliative care specialists were engaged in an online survey to critique the PPCS and establish its face validity. The process of revising the PPCS will be described and the final version of the PPCS will be shared. Phase two, completed in January 2014, involved administering the PPCS at four sites across Canada (Halifax, Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver). A total of 176 responses were received. Respondents rated their competency in accessing perinatal palliative care resources and knowing community resources lower than their competency in managing or assessing physical symptoms, communication about care or identifying and understanding ethical issues. Responses in the knowledge section identified gaps related to opioid use and response to opioids, pharmacological interventions for breathlessness, pain behaviors, pain assessment, and tolerance developed to opioids and sedatives. Eight-nine percent of respondents stated that if education about palliative care was made available they would participate, with the priority topics identified as communication with families (82%), managing symptoms (74%), pain management (73%) and ethical issues (73%).

The PPCS provides a meaningful assessment to determine the educational needs of health care providers delivering perinatal palliative care and will be used in future research to evaluate the effectiveness of educational interventions.

Date: June 4, 2014
Time: 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.
Place: Room 370 Helen Glass Centre

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