

END-OF-LIFE NURSING EDUCATION CONSORTIUM (ELNEC) CORE TRAINING PROGRAM

The ELNEC-Core curriculum is composed of the following nine modules:

Nursing Care at the End of Life

This module creates the foundation for the ELNEC-Core curriculum. It is an overview of the need to improve end-of-life care and the role of nurses in end-of-life care. Basic principles of palliative care are presented within a quality of life (QOL) framework. Other issues include goals of care, cost issues in palliative care, personal death awareness, and various disease trajectories/acute illness encompassing all age groups.

Pain Management

This module reviews principles of pain assessment and management including integration of non-pharmacological/complimentary therapies with a focus on pain at the end of life.

Symptom Management

This module builds on Module 2: Pain Management, by addressing other symptoms common at the end of life, and the role of nurses in managing these symptoms.

Ethical Issues in Palliative Nursing

This module discusses some of the key ethical issues and legal concerns in end-of-life care and resources to address these in practice.

Communication

This module emphasizes the importance of good communication in end-of-life care. The complexities of communicating with patients and families at this critical time are described along with suggestions for care.

Cultural Considerations in End-of-Life Care

This module discusses beliefs regarding death and dying, afterlife and bereavement and includes cultural and spiritual assessments and the discussion of needs of special populations.

Loss, Grief, Bereavement

This module addresses the challenging aspects of loss, grief and bereavement of patients and families as well as the loss experiences of health care professionals.

Achieving Quality Palliative Care

This module focuses on the role of the nurse in achieving quality care at the end of life by reviewing limitations in existing systems and creating change.

Preparation for and Care at the Time of Death

This module focuses on care at the actual time of death, emphasizing the preparation necessary to insure the best care at this critical event in the trajectory of illness.

Each of the nine modules contains the following:

- Module Overview
- Key Messages
- Objectives
- Participant Outline
- Faculty Outline (talking points for each PowerPoint slide)
- Key References
- Case Studies
- Supplemental Teaching Materials
- Copy of PowerPoint Slides

In addition to the nine modules (which is a notebook of over 1000 pages), there is an updated Master Reference List.

Nurses applying for this course, should have at least basic education in end-of-life/palliative care issues. Teaching strategies will be stressed for each module. Diverse teaching strategies are used in providing this education.

In addition to the ELNEC-Core training, there are also ELNEC projects addressing Oncology, Pediatrics, and Graduate Educators. Additional detail is available on our website <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ELNEC/>. In 2006, The ELNEC project will also launch a Critical Care version.

For further information regarding the ELNEC Project: <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ELNEC>

A list of current ELNEC trainers:

<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ELNEC/undergradtrainers.htm>

ELNEC Connections (quarterly newsletter):

<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ELNEC/connections.htm>