

Publication

The Need for a Shared Understanding: Domains of Care and Composition of Team in Pediatric Palliative Care Guidelines

JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

ID 4021472

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Year 2017

Title The Need for a Shared Understanding: Domains of Care and Composition of Team in Pediatric Palliative Care Guidelines

Journal Journal of Hospice & Palliative Nursing

Volume 19

Number 6

Pages / Article-Number 556-564

Conceptual confusion is a primary barrier to providing quality palliative care. This study aimed to analyze pediatric palliative care (PPC) guidelines from a conceptual perspective to facilitate a shared understanding of palliative care in pediatrics. Five online databases were searched systematically, in addition to a Google search. Analysis focused on the language used to determine the domains of PPC and on the composition of the PPC team. Guidelines express consensus on 4 core domains: physical, psychological, social, and spiritual care. However, conceptual vagueness exists with respect to the latter 3 because terminology is used inconsistently both within and across guidelines. An inconsistent use of terminology affects the quality of PPC nursing in various ways. Therefore, a shared understanding and unambiguous language must be envisaged. Furthermore, although guidelines agree on the most prominent team members, they do not clearly indicate how these occupational groups should collaborate.

Publisher Wolter Kluwers Health

ISSN/ISBN 1522-2179 ; 1539-0705

edoc-URL <http://edoc.unibas.ch/57204/>

Full Text on edoc Available;

Digital Object Identifier DOI 10.1097/NJH.0000000000000387

ISI-Number WOS:000415746500008

Document type (ISI) Article