

Education Evaluation Research Grant 2023 - Project Summary

Evaluation of Pallium Canada's Learning Essential Approaches to Palliative Care (LEAP) courses for health care providers in the Grey Bruce Region



Project lead: Dr. Kelly Fenn, Physician Lead, Community Palliative Care, Grey Bruce Region

Partner organizations: Rebecca Brookham, Director, Research & Innovation at Brightshores Health System's Research & Innovation

Background:

In remote and rural areas, such as the Grey Bruce region, palliative care education and training is crucial as access to specialized palliative care services are limited and most palliative care is delivered by primary care, hospitalists, and in acute care settings. Palliative care education and training are crucial to ensure patients in rural areas receive the highest quality palliative and end-of-life care.

The initiative:

Dr. Kelly Finn, physician lead, will partner with Brightshores Health Systems, to evaluate the effectiveness of Pallium Canada's Learning Essential Approaches to Palliative Care (LEAP) courses for health care providers in the Grey Bruce Region.

In response to a recent one-time funding opportunity from Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) and the Ontario Palliative Care Network, the Grey Bruce region received approximately \$138,000 to implement widespread LEAP training as part of a provincial strategy to enhance the capabilities of health care professionals aligned with the Ontario Palliative Care Competency Framework. Special thanks to Elizabeth Pungitore from London Health Science Centre's South West Regional Cancer Program who was instrumental in coordinating this education, as well as developing the application for this current project.

The initiative aims to assess the effectiveness of LEAP training, specifically LEAP Core, LEAP Mini, LEAP Paramedics, and LEAP Leader, to address their impact on improving skills, knowledge, and competency levels among health care professionals in rural communities.

Impact:

In addition to understanding the impacts of LEAP education on health care providers, this project demonstrates further commitment to the advancement of palliative care education in rural Ontario. It also provides new evidence related to palliative care education programs and their impact on clinical practice that reflect the unique needs of rural communities.

Knowledge exchange:

A final report with results and recommendations will be shared widely among health care professionals, patients, families, organizations, policymakers, and communities to inspire improvements in palliative care practices.