

THE CANADIAN INTERDISCIPLINARY PALLIATIVE CARE COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

A curriculum guide for educators and reference manual for disciplines providing palliative care.

What this framework seeks to achieve, and how to use it

This framework establishes a minimum national standard for palliative care in Canada.

It is written with several readers in mind:

Individuals, managers and human resources personnel will use it to fill skills gaps and guide hiring practices.

Educators will use it to identify minimum standards for palliative care competencies, weave the development of essential skills into existing curricula, or build new curricula to teach the competencies.

National accreditation and regulatory agencies will use it as a guide for establishing minimum national standards in palliative care.

Specifically, the disciplines with competencies in the framework:



Nurses



General Physicians



Social Workers



Personal Support
Workers



Volunteers



Spiritual Care
Professionals

The framework includes:

a. Twelve domains of competency:



1. Principles of a palliative approach to care



2. Cultural safety and humility



3. Communication



4. Optimizing comfort and quality of life



5. Care planning and collaborative practice



6. Last days and hours



7. Loss, grief, and bereavement



8. Self-care



9. Professional and ethical practice



10. Education, evaluation, quality improvement, research



11. Advocacy



12. Virtual care

b. Discipline-specific skills self-assessments:

- provide the health care practitioner with a snapshot of their own competencies;
- provide managers with tools to gauge the levels of palliative care competencies within a team;
- can guide professionals and managers as they customize continuing education plans.

c. Education resources