NU7702 Psychosocial Issues in Palliative Care: An Interdisciplinary Perspective.

Module Leaders
Ms. Martina Corrigan. RGN, Higher Diploma in Nursing Studies (Oncological Nursing), Higher Diploma in Nursing Studies (Palliative Nursing), MSc in Professional Studies (Psychosocial Palliative Care).
Dr. Kevin Connaire. RGN, RPN, BNS, RNT, MSc (Nursing), FFNMRCISI, PhD.

ECTS 10
No. of Hours See Appendix VII
Pre-requisite Undergraduate Study

Rationale
Throughout this module and beyond, participants are encouraged to examine and explore psychological, spiritual, emotional, cultural and social factors in caring for individuals who are dying and the bereaved. The psychological well being of a person has considerable impact on their physical functioning and social well-being. In the context of holistic Palliative Care, a direct relationship between pain and symptom management and psychosocial care is essential. Psychosocial Palliative Care is considered in unison with pain and symptom management and Theory and Practice of Palliative Care : An Interdisciplinary Perspective modules.

Aims
The aims of this module are:

- To enhance the student’s knowledge and understanding of the psychological, social, cultural, spiritual, ethical and legal aspects of care in the care of individuals who are dying and bereaved.
- To enable the students to develop additional skills, sensitivities and attitudes appropriate to working in partnership with individuals who are dying and their families and those who are bereaved.
- To advance the student’s ability to work collaboratively with other members of the inter disciplinary team

Expected Outcomes

Having completed the module the student will be able to:

- Develop sensitivities and skills in the provision of holistic patient care within the social, cultural and institutional context across the lifespan.
- Discuss the concept of family support and develop an understanding of family systems theory.
- Critically analyse the application of palliative care philosophy and principles to persons with intellectual disabilities and dementia and their families.
- Evaluate and discuss the importance of interpersonal skills when communicating with patients, families and other team members.
- Distinguish the factors that influence communication between the person who is dying, their families and other team members.
- Develop an understanding of communication skills, strategies and sensitivities in
providing palliative care to persons with Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia and their families.

- Appreciate disciplinary specific contributions to the collaborative work of the palliative care team in meeting the physical, psychosocial and spiritual needs of the person who is dying and their families.
- Critically analyse the meaning, nature and management of suffering.
- Critically analyse the concept and application of health promotion principles within the philosophy of palliative care.
- Identify the spiritual dimensions for the dying person’s experience and the implications of these for an interdisciplinary model of palliative care practice.
- Explore the meaning and methods of spiritual care and caring for persons with Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia within the palliative care context of care.
- Critically reflect on the inhibiting and facilitating factors in providing family care with particular reference to Paediatric palliative care, and caring for the person with Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia.
- Identify the clinical relevance of cultural issues and their implications for Palliative Care provision.
- Identify the extent of the teaching role of interdisciplinary team members in relation to patient and family education, in the context of patient and family support.
- Consider the impact of progressive illness, death and bereavement of people who are dying and their significant other(s).
- Identify strategies for supporting children, adolescents and adults during progressive illness, the dying process, death and bereavement.
- Critically analyse various theoretical approaches to bereavement and loss, with particular reference to grief and loss in the paediatric care and the palliative care for the person with Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia care.
- Reflect critically on the impact of progressive illness, death and bereavement on members of the interdisciplinary team.
- Identify strategies for self care and staff support in the context of palliative care practice.

**Indicative Content**

- Philosophy and Principles of Palliative Care
- Sensitivities and skills in holistic care
- Personhood and Quality of Life: Analysis of concept in Paediatric Palliative Care / Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia
- Patient and family education with regard to pain and symptom management
- Spiritual Care: Meaning and Methods
- Communication skills: Strategies and sensitivities in Palliative Care
- Interdisciplinary Team working
- Family support in Palliative Care
- Family systems theory
- Facilitating and Inhibiting factors in Family care
• Role of family: Cost of caring
• Suffering and the Self
• Meaning and method of support – Paediatric Palliative Care / Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia
• Application of theories of Grief and Loss
• Application of theories of Death and Dying
• Grieving: special types of losses
• Exploring Grief and Loss in Paediatric Palliative Care / Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia
• Counselling Skills in Palliative Care and Bereavement support
• Social, cultural and Institutional contexts
• Caring for the carers
• Suffering and the Self.

Mode of Assessment
Assignment 3,000 words Weighting - 100%

Summary Reading List


Brooks/Cole Publishing.


