

Attachment 2: Online questionnaire for resident physicians

Attachment 2 to Dronia MC, Dillen K, Elsner F, Schallenburger M, Neukirchen M, Hagemeyer A, Hamacher S, Doll A, Voltz R, Golla H. *Palliative care education and knowledge transfer into practice – a multicenter survey among medical students and resident physicians in Germany using a mixed-methods design*. GMS J Med Educ. 2024;41(3):Doc27. DOI: 10.3205/zma001682

Structural data

Age: _____ Gender <input type="checkbox"/> male <input type="checkbox"/> female <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Degree completed in (month/year): _____ at the University of _____
Current speciality: _____
<p>Have you already come into contact with palliative care structures (palliative care ward, doctors or nursing staff with further training in palliative care, palliative care service (PMD)¹, palliative outpatient clinic, palliative day clinic, specialised outpatient palliative care (SAPV), hospice (service), further training courses)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>If yes, in which way?</p> <p>.....</p>
<p>Did you complete medical training before your studies or did you work in a medical institution during your studies?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>If yes, in which medical field did you work?</p> <p>.....</p>

B What does palliative care mean to you?

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¹ Sometimes also referred to as a palliative medical consultation service
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How would you rate the proportion of palliative medicine teaching in the overall curriculum?

- ☐ too low ☐ just right ☐ too high
☐ not specified ☐ Other

Looking back, which palliative medicine teaching event as part of QB13 best prepared you for dealing with patients with an incurable, advanced illness?

At the University of Cologne

- ☐ QB13 Lectures
☐ Competence Course: Death and mourning
☐ Competence Course: changing therapy goals
☐ Competence Course: Symptom control
☐ PY-START Course
☐ Internship in palliative medicine
☐ Practical Year tertial in palliative medicine
☐ Other events:

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At the Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf

- ☐ Palliative care Lectures
☐ Palliative care seminars
☐ Bedside teaching at the palliative care centre
☐ Internship in palliative medicine
☐ PY tertial in the palliative care centre
☐ Other events

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At the RWTH Aachen

- ☐ Lectures
 - ☐ Palliative care system block
 - ☐ Seminar
 - ☐ Traineeship in palliative medicine
 - ☐ PY tertial in the palliative care centre
 - ☐ Other events
-

Did you miss anything during your studies with regard to your palliative care training?

- ☐ yes ☐ no ☐ don't know

Which aspects may have been dealt with too briefly or not at all?

- ☐ Notification of serious diagnoses
- ☐ Dealing with patients in pre-final/final phases of life
- ☐ Change of treatment goal to a palliative concept
- ☐ Communication with relatives
- ☐ Symptom-relieving therapy (dyspnoea, pain, nausea, weakness...)
- ☐ Dealing with death and grief
- ☐ Other:

Did you feel well prepared when you had to tell a patient a serious diagnosis for the first time?

- ☐ Yes, I was able to deal with this situation well
- ☐ No, I was overwhelmed by the situation
- ☐ Not specified

Does the support and treatment of people receiving palliative care play a role in your daily inpatient work?

- ☐ Yes, I often come into contact with people who receive/need palliative care treatment
- ☐ Patients rarely need/receive palliative medical treatment in my daily inpatient work
- ☐ No, on the vast majority of days the focus is on curative therapy
- ☐ Not specified

Do you feel overwhelmed with the care for palliative care patients?

- ☐ No, care for these patients can be provided by me to the same extent as a curative therapy approach
- ☐ I usually have the feeling that I can also do justice to this group of patients
- ☐ Yes, I have the feeling of not being able to do justice to these patients in everyday hospital life
- ☐ Not specified

Please rate your skills in relation to the following core palliative care competencies (from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree) ²

C 1	<p>Core components of palliative care ³</p> <p>I feel confident in naming the core components of palliative care.</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p>
C 2	<p>Physical well-being of palliative patients</p> <p>I can strengthen the physical well-being of patients during the course of their illness.</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I feel confident in treating common symptoms that can occur in palliative care patients.</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I feel confident in my knowledge of the causes of common symptoms that can occur in palliative care patients.</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I feel confident in prescribing appropriate and adequate pain therapy.</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I feel confident in my knowledge of the therapeutic effects and side effects of analgesics.</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I feel confident in my knowledge of the therapeutic effects and side effects of symptom-relieving medication (other than analgesics).</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p>

² According to Marie Curie Palliative Care Institute Liverpool – SEPC & Thanatophobia Assessment Scale, German version – Clinic for Palliative Medicine, RWTH University Aachen

³ Core components of palliative care: For example, understanding the importance of the physical, psychological, social and spiritual aspects of patients and their relatives, adopting a life-affirming attitude with a focus on quality of life, and the ability to recognise palliative care needs early enough.

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C 3	<p>Dealing with psychological needs</p> <p>I feel able to assess the patient's needs.</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I feel confident in being able to provide psychological care for palliative care patients.</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p>
C 4	<p>Dealing with social needs</p> <p>I feel confident in being able to provide social care for palliative care patients.</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p>
C 5	<p>Dealing with spiritual needs</p> <p>I feel confident in being able to provide spiritual care for palliative care patients.</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p>
C 6	<p>Care for relatives and dependants</p> <p>I feel able to assess the needs of the relatives of palliative care patients.</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I feel confident in being able to provide psychological support to relatives of palliative care patients.</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I feel confident in being able to provide social care for relatives of palliative care patients.</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I feel confident in being able to provide spiritual care for relatives of palliative care patients.</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p>

C 7	<p>Ethical aspects</p> <p>I feel confident to include ethical aspects in the decision-making process.</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p>
C 8	<p>Care coordination and interdisciplinary teamwork</p> <p>I am able to work in an interdisciplinary and multi-professional team.</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I feel confident in being able to involve different care centres and different professions in the treatment.</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p>
C 9	<p>Communicative skills</p> <p>I feel secure in myself talking to the patient about his/her death.</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I feel confident in answering the patient's question "Will I suffer a lot or be in pain?"</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I feel confident in answering the patient's question "How long do I have to live?"</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I feel confident discussing the death of the patient after the bereavement has occurred.</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I feel confident in discussing the (expected) death of the patient with the patient's relatives.</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p>
C 10	<p>Reflection and further training</p> <p>I am aware of the need for continuous reflection on my work.</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Indicate the number whether you disagree or agree with the following statements (from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree). ⁴

C 11	Dying patients give me a feeling of uncertainty. 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/>
C 12	I feel pretty helpless when I have dying patients on my ward. 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/>
C 13	It is frustrating to have further conversations with relatives of patients who cannot expect a recovery. 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/>
C 14	Caring for dying patients traumatises me. 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/>
C 15	I feel uncomfortable when a dying patient wants to say goodbye to me. 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/>
C 16	I do not look forward to being the doctor caring for a dying patient. 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/>
C 17	When patients start talking about death, it makes me uncomfortable. 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/>

⁴ From Marie Curie Palliative Care Institute Liverpool – SEPC & Thanatophobia Assessment Scale, German version – Clinic for Palliative Medicine, RWTH University Aachen
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D How do you determine the palliative care needs of a patient?

- ☐ Type of illness
- ☐ Stage of the disease
- ☐ Symptom burden
- ☐ Patient request
- ☐ Other: _____

In your opinion, when is the right time to integrate palliative medical treatment?

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In your opinion, which non-oncological diseases require palliative care?

- ☐ ALS
- ☐ M. Parkinson
- ☐ COPD
- ☐ Heart failure
- ☐ Renal insufficiency
- ☐ Other: _____

How do you rate palliative medical care for patients in an inpatient setting? Please select one of the following answers:

- ☐ Completely sufficient
- ☐ Mostly sufficient
- ☐ Rarely sufficient
- ☐ Not sufficient

It is reasonable to set up a separate palliative care ward in hospitals/clinics.

☐ Agree ☐ Do not agree ☐ Don't know

It is reasonable to set up a palliative care service in hospitals/clinics.

☐ Agree ☐ Do not agree ☐ Don't know

Outpatient palliative care services, e.g. specialised outpatient palliative care (SAPV), are a useful addition to the services provided by general practitioners/specialists.

☐ Agree ☐ Do not agree ☐ Don't know

The following lines are intended to give you the opportunity to make remarks or comments independently of the questions we have asked. Perhaps you can remember an example of a patient or a situation that had a particular impact on you.

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