



AFMC

The Association of Faculties
of Medicine of Canada

Educating Future Physicians in Palliative and End-of-Life Care

As part of AFMC's Social Accountability Initiative (SAI), Educating Future Physicians in Palliative and End-of-Life Care (EFPPEC) is a five-year project to ensure all undergraduate medical students and clinical postgraduate trainees receive education in palliative and end-of-life care.

In partnership with the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association and funded by Health Canada, this initiative is co-ordinated by a project team and guided by an interdisciplinary management committee.

EFPPEC has several objectives for both faculty and students/trainees. For faculty, the project's aims are to develop interdisciplinary teams at each medical faculty to address end-of-life care education; develop a cross-country network of palliative and end-of-life care educators; and empower faculty in the various specialties to become palliative and end-of-life care mentors and role models. For undergraduate medical students and clinical postgraduate trainees, the project's goals are to develop and introduce consensus-based core competencies in palliative and end-of-life care and facilitate the introduction of questions on palliative and end-of-life care in licensing and certification exams.

Several major activities have already been undertaken. To name just four, local interdisciplinary teams are stimulating interest in palliative and end-of-life care education and integrating end-of-life care curricula; a pan-Canadian consensus on a set of undergraduate medical competencies was achieved; a curriculum framework for undergraduate medical education and postgraduate family medicine competencies was developed; and a curriculum inventory tool was created to help the local teams identify current curriculum content and gaps related to palliative and end-of-life care at their faculties of medicine.

An online resource also provides a forum to share curricula and teaching programs in end-of-life care, and EFPPEC holds an annual Education Symposium on palliative and end-of-life medical education.

EFPPEC is also in the process of reaching consensus on competencies for five clinical specialties, and an external evaluation team from the Wilson Centre for Research in Education is currently evaluating all of EFPPEC's activities.



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