

## Journal Watch – Home Palliative Care – April 2018

**Article:**

Engagement of primary care physicians in home palliative care.

Malik S, Goldman R, Kevork N, Wentlandt K, Husain A, Merrow N, Le LW, Zimmermann C.

Journal of Palliative Care. 2017:32(1) 3-10

Article link: [10.1177/0825859717706791](https://doi.org/10.1177/0825859717706791)

**Review:**

**Strengths:** Canadian study, large enough sample size to provide sufficient power for analyses. Significant effort went in to creating the survey. Separating the analyses into engaged, engageable, and not engageable helps audience identify more applicable areas for change.

**Weaknesses:** Low response rate. Questionable reliability given partially completed survey, and participants were enticed with a \$2.00 coffee gift card. Response bias. Doesn't necessarily reflect current views given data collection date and publication >5 years after (ie. Potential compensation changes). Not completely generalizable to other health regions given region sampled was primarily urban, and varying provincial fee schedules.

**Relevance to Palliative Care:** There has been a downward trend in the amount of FPs that provide HPC. With our significantly aging population, the need for FPs who provide HPC will continue to rise, and unfortunately these demands may not be met. FPs are highly valued in fulfilling the HPC role given their established patient/family relationships and continuity of care. Identifying factors and implementing change to engage physicians in HPC, while mitigating barriers, is important to ensuring that patients can fulfill their desire to receive palliative care at home.