

Journal Watch – Assessment Tools & Administration & Education and Training
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Article:

Usage Patterns of a Mobile Palliative Care Application

Zhang H, Liu D, Marks S, Rickerson EM, Wright A, Gordon WJ, Landman A

J Palliat Med. 2018 Feb 26. [Epub ahead of print]

Article link: doi: 10.1089/jpm.2017.0378.

Review:

Strengths: Large database of users with an efficient system of analytical assessment. This study provides insight into frequently asked topics in Palliative Care and highlights the need for useful tools to access topics in Palliative Care.

Weaknesses: Only assessed users in the United States even though the app is available worldwide. Lacks demographic data of users therefore we are unsure exactly who is accessing and what their background is. Since this is an analytical study it does not evaluate the clinical impact, or the quality of care provided.

Relevance to Palliative Care: The number of patients requiring Palliative Care is growing as our population ages. The ability to provide Specialist Palliative Care consults to everyone is not possible. We rely on Family Doctors to provide primary Palliative Care. There are few “apps” that Physicians can access that are reliable in the PC world. Fast Facts Mobile (FFM) is a peer reviewed app that can help assist healthcare professionals in a real time basis. This “app” could be recommended as a point of care access tool to aid in education and decision making in Palliative Care. This article highlights specific topics that are being accessed on a regular basis. By knowing this we can incorporate that into our resident teaching on the TPCU during their rotations in order to enhance knowledge and ensure competency when providing Palliative Care in the future.