

Journal Watch – Home Death – October 2017

Article:

Caring at home until death: enabled determination.

Robinson CA, Bottorff JL, McFee E, Bissell LJ, Fyles G

Support Care Cancer 2017;4:1229-1236

Article link: DOI: [10.1007/s00520-016-3515-5](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00520-016-3515-5)

Review:

Strengths: Good sample size for a qualitative study using an interpretive descriptive approach. Use of quotes. Multiple team members coded responses. Majority of caregivers were spouses – experiences may be different depending on relationship

Weaknesses: Recruitment strategy – participants tended to be of higher SES/educational status. Strategy may have selected for family care givers with more positive experiences.

Relevance to palliative care: Allowing patients to die in their preferred location of death is associated with better overall quality of death. Many patients who would prefer to die at home experience barriers to accomplishing this. Supporting family caregivers is an integral part of establishing successful death at home, therefore identifying positive predictive factors that enable family caregivers to continue caring for their loved one at home until death would be useful in establishing supports and resources.