

Journal Watch – Administration – May 2018

Article:

Emergency department staff priorities for improving palliative care provision for older people: A qualitative study

Wright RJ, Lowton K, Robert G, Grudzen CR and Grocott P.

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Article link: DOI: [10.1177/0269216317705789](https://doi.org/10.1177/0269216317705789)

Review:

Strengths:

- Focuses on discrepancy between those leading change processes & the clinicians implementing them.
- Diverse demographic of patients, and diverse group of clinicians (students, residents, staff physicians, nurses of varying age and experience)
- Recognizes the barriers to providing quality palliative care in the ED and contradicting roles
- Goes beyond ideas and limitations to suggest “service redesign” & improvement priorities

Weaknesses:

- Study took place at one urban academic UK hospital
- 15 staff interviewed (only 6 physicians, remainder nurses)
- Non-specific “goals” for ED palliative management

Relevance to Palliative Care: With a rapidly aging population, many palliative care patients end up in the emergency department during the course of their disease process. Helping them have plans in place and resources available would allow for improved QOL for these patients and rapid access to appropriate care. Future directions likely include Palliative Care Teams being actively involved in the ED, both as consultants and by providing resources.