

Healthcare professional's barriers and facilitators to using E-Learning in palliative care education

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Background Whilst e-learning offers considerable opportunities for more flexible learning to those who cannot access such education in the traditional face-to-face classroom, educators need to understand the challenges and facilitators for learners using e-learning in palliative and end-of-life care.

Aim To examine barriers and facilitators to using e-learning in palliative care in Ireland by nurses, doctors, allied health care professionals and healthcare assistants.

Results A total of 397 responses was obtained from a convenience sample sent to thirteen specialist palliative care centres which had inpatient units located in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland as well as all specialist palliative care homecare services located in the Republic of Ireland.

Only 37% of clinical staff in palliative care had experience of completing a course previously using E-Learning alone. Sixty-seven per cent indicated that having limited time would be a challenge using E-Learning and fifty-four per cent indicated that they preferred face to face interaction. Nearly one third indicated that remaining motivated would be a challenge and thirty-four per cent reported that lacking computer skills would be a barrier to using E-Learning.

An analysis of qualitative data indicated that having designated time to carry out E-Learning would be an important facilitator, as well as quick technical and administrative support you could call on and access to computers with a designated quiet space. Eighty per cent of respondents reported that if a course or study module they were interested in became available which had an E-Learning component, they would avail of it. Fifty per cent indicated they would like to receive support face-to-face followed by forty-seven per cent reporting online assistance.

Conclusion By understanding healthcare professional's attitudes, knowledge and experiences of utilizing e-learning, it will assist us in understanding the barriers that exist in adopting e-learning in palliative care education in Ireland and assist us in addressing those needs.

Objectives 1) To understand the barriers that exist for those accessing e-learning courses in palliative care 2) To examine how we can facilitate the adoption of e-learning

Design & Methodology

Cross-sectional surveys were developed, piloted and disseminated to clinical staff in Irish hospice services.



"Risk of limited study leave / support from work organisation as the time spent on E-Learning is hidden"

"I think Palliative care education is enhanced by personal and group interaction"

"It is the future. Most onsite training is on the East coast. I live in the West Coast-this usually involves up to 6 hour round trip in a day !"

"Ease of use, the chance to repeat if necessary, my time & my pace"