Improving The Understanding of Inpatient Palliative Care Services in an Academic Hospital

Kalee Moore, DO,
JPS Palliative Care Fellow & UNTHSC GCAM Fellow
Lesca Hadley, MD,
JPS Palliative Care Program Director

RESEARCH QUESTION

Will using a novel curriculum centered on learner interaction increase the learner's knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to appropriately consult the palliative care team, as well as to measure the Palliative Performance Scale (PPS) and the Edmonton Symptom Assessment Scale (ESAS)?

ABSTRACT

There are countless models & curriculums for teaching. This makes each teaching opportunity unique, especially those in a clinical setting.

Our novel curriculum merges both ancient & modern teaching techniques in an interactive, exciting way to engage the presenter & learner.

This study dives into the methods used when teaching new physicians about palliative care at various academic institutions in Texas.
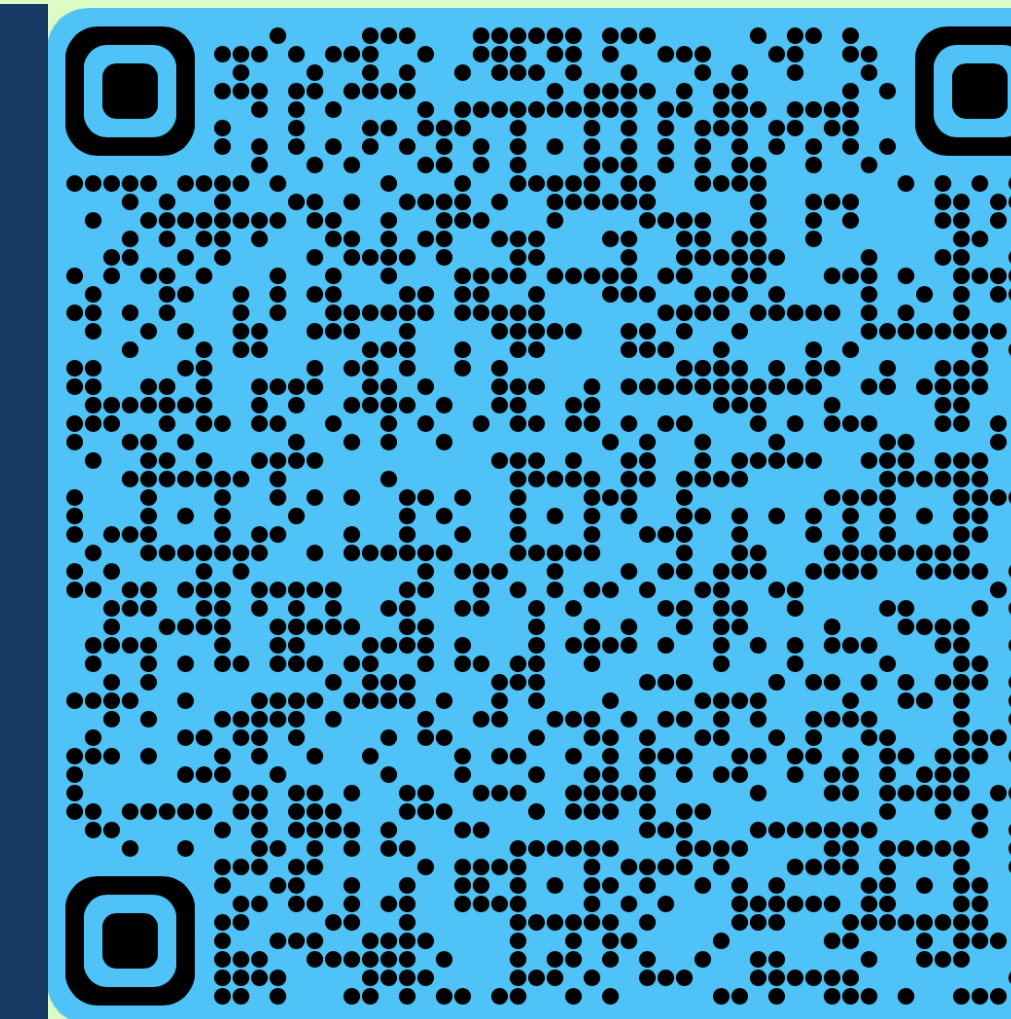
Our methods included:
1. Creating a three-part lecture series, utilizing both traditional & more novel teaching techniques like:
   a. Socratic method
   b. Matching pictures with prompts
   c. Broad discussion on the classroom level
   d. Jeopardy game

2. A retrospective pretest to evaluate curriculum determined measurable effects of the lecture series for each of our educational objectives.

A CLOSE LOOK INTO CREATING AN INTERACTIVE LECTURE SERIES:

Merging novel and ancient teaching methods to create a welcome environment for all parties involved

LECTURE 1: INTRO TO THE WORLD OF PALLIATIVE CARE

- History of palliative and hospice medicine
- Identifying an appropriate palliative patient using the patients' diagnoses
- Hospice diagnoses and admittance guidelines

Teaching method used:
Socratic method
Picture matching with diagnostic visuals

LECTURE 2: IT'S IN THE DETAILS

- Reflection of Lecture 1
- Comparing palliative versus hospice medicine
- How to quantify quality of life
- Using the ESAS and PPS

Teaching method used:
Socratic method
Create your own performance scale tool
Case examples of calculating PPS

LECTURE 3: REFLECTION

- Putting the information together
- Evaluation of the course

Teaching method used:
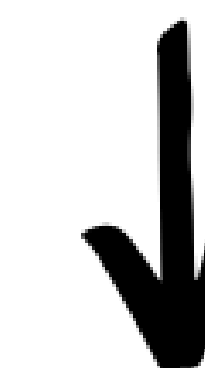Gamification via Jeopardy
Paper evaluation as exit ticket

RESULTS

How confident do you feel in identifying the appropriate patient for a palliative care consult?

Rate your confidence from 1 to 5, 1 being the least confident and 5 being the most confident.

Pretest Confidence Level
2.2 out of 5

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Posttest Confidence Level
4.0 out of 5

- Statistically significant increase in learner's confidence level
- 4 out of the 5 posttest questions scored > than 70%
- Study is ongoing & more data is to be pooled
- Spread of a formalized curriculum can assure that future patients reap all the benefits that palliative care & hospice medicine has to offer.

Posttest Results	
Topic	**Percentage Correct**
Identifying a Hospice Patient	71%
Services provided by palliative care	90%
PPS Criteria Question #1	43%
PPS Criteria Question #2	86%
Distinguishing palliative care versus hospice services	81%