

Assessing the Need and Planned Utilization of a New Pediatric Palliative Care Program

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Problem Statement: Currently, Kaiser North Valley (3 hospitals with clinical sites) has no dedicated Pediatric Palliative Care (PPC) providers. PPC is integral to providing comprehensive care for children with serious illnesses. With the aim of improving pediatric care to the level of children's hospitals around the country, Kaiser Roseville Medical Center will be implementing a PPC program. A dedicated needs assessment of perception and utilization of PPC was performed to aid in this implementation.

Background: A literature review supports the use of community needs assessments for implementation of PPC, including the importance of examining access to palliative care at all levels of care and understanding where knowledge gaps exist.

Purpose: To determine perceptions and planned utilization of a new PPC program amongst primary and subspecialty providers at Kaiser Roseville Medical Center using a validated needs assessment tool.

Methods: In Spring 2022, an 18-item validated needs assessment was emailed using a Qualtrics link to 300 inpatient and outpatient pediatric providers to determine knowledge, needs, barriers, and potential utilization of PPC

Findings: Eighty-four pediatric providers (62% RNs, 23% MDs, 5% RT, 7% ancillary services including MSW, Case Manager, Child Life Specialist) with an average of 17 years of experience responded (28% response rate). The majority (>75%) of respondents care for children with advanced, serious illness on a daily or weekly basis and >60% reported being "very familiar" with palliative care. Despite this frequency and familiarity, most respondents reported little or no satisfaction with current palliative care delivery, including how goals of care are discussed and how patients/families are informed of care options aligned with their goals of care.

Practice Implications: PPC is an integral component of comprehensive care for children living with serious illness. Survey results will inform the development and implementation of a comprehensive PPC program at Kaiser Roseville Medical Center.