

**Title: Neuropalliative Care: An Educational Presentation for Clinicians**

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**Problem Statement:** Early palliative care (PC) improves quality of life, symptom management, and survival for patients with serious illness. However, only a small fraction of eligible patients receives PC. Neurologists often lack PC training and are hesitant to discuss it with patients.

**Background:** A literature search, conducted using keywords related to neuropalliative care, focused on articles published primarily within the last 10 years. A position statement from the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) served as a foundation recognizing the importance of increased education and training for neurologists on the principles and practices of neuropalliative care.

**Purpose:** This project's purpose is to increase community health care professionals' understanding and awareness of neuropalliative care through the development and delivery of an educational program on neuropalliative care to providers and interdisciplinary health care professionals.

**Methods:** A 50-minute presentation at a neuroscience symposium in August 2023 targeted community health care professionals. The presentation focused on the prevalence of neurological disorders in Western Colorado and the importance of establishing a comprehensive neuropalliative care program. A 6-item survey was administered post intervention to determine improvement in knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about PC and comfort addressing the PC topic with patients and family caregivers.

**Findings:** Forty health care professionals attended the presentation; 100% completed the survey. Results suggest that the program was successful in edifying attendees' knowledge of neuropalliative care and increased participants' confidence and likelihood in identifying and referring patients who might benefit from neuropalliative care.

**Practice Implications:** This educational intervention was an important first step in increasing understanding and awareness of neuropalliative care among community healthcare professionals and improving the likelihood of patients with neurodegenerative disease serious illness to receive PC. Future directions include the development of a neuropalliative care service to ideally improve the lives of people with neurodegenerative disease in Western Colorado.