Integrated Palliative Care Models for Adults Requiring Palliative Care

August 2021
Key Messages

- Two systematic reviews and 1 non-randomized study were identified regarding the clinical evidence supporting the use of an integrated palliative care approach/model for adults requiring palliative care in any setting.
- Two evidence-based guidelines associated with the use of an integrated palliative care approach/model for adults requiring palliative care in any setting were identified.

Research Questions

1. What is the clinical evidence supporting the use of an integrated palliative care approach/model for adults requiring palliative care in any setting?
2. What are the evidence-based guidelines associated with the use of an integrated palliative care approach/model for adults requiring palliative care in any setting?

Methods

Literature Search Methods

A limited literature search was conducted by an information specialist on key resources including MEDLINE, Embase, health technology assessments, the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, the international HTA database, the websites of Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused internet search. The search strategy consisted of both controlled vocabulary, such as the National Library of Medicine’s MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) and keywords. The main search concepts were palliative care, integrated care, and organizational models. Search filters were applied to limit retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, network meta-analyses, any types of clinical trials or observational studies, or guidelines. Search filters were applied to exclude conference abstracts in Embase. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English-language documents published between January 1, 2016 and August 10, 2021. Internet links were provided, where available.

Selection Criteria

One reviewer screened literature search results (titles and abstracts) and selected publications according to the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1. Full texts of study publications were not reviewed. Open access, full-text versions of evidence-based guidelines were reviewed when abstracts were not available.

Results

Two systematic reviews and 1 non-randomized study were identified regarding the clinical evidence supporting the use of an integrated palliative care approach/model for adults requiring palliative care in any setting. No relevant health technology assessments or randomized controlled trials were identified. Two evidence-based guidelines associated with the use of an integrated palliative care approach/model for adults requiring palliative care in any setting were identified.

Additional references of potential interest that did not meet the inclusion criteria are provided in Appendix 1.
### Table 1: Selection Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>Adults requiring palliative care in any setting (e.g., hospice, hospital, long-term care, home, community)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intervention</td>
<td>Integrated palliative care models</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comparator</td>
<td>Q1: Other models of care, waitlist, no comparator</td>
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<td>Q2: No comparator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outcomes</td>
<td>Q1: Clinical effectiveness (e.g., patient satisfaction, quality of life, family satisfaction) and safety and adverse events (e.g., unwanted treatment and/or resuscitation, delay in treatment)</td>
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<td>Q2: Recommendations regarding the use of an integrated palliative care approach/model (e.g., best practices on crises management, approaches to achieving seamless transitions across care settings for continuity of care)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study designs</td>
<td>Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, evidence-based guidelines</td>
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References

Health Technology Assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses
See: Key Question #2

Randomized Controlled Trials
No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies

Guidelines and Recommendations
Appendix 1: References of Potential Interest

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses

Integrated Approach Unclear


Scoping Review of Systematic Reviews


Non-Randomized Studies

Alternative Outcomes


Guidelines and Recommendations

Systematic Methodology Not Identified


Clinical Practice Guidelines


Review Articles


Additional References