

CADTH Reference List

Integrated Palliative Care Models for Adults Requiring Palliative Care

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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^{1,2} and 1 non-randomized study³ 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^{4,5} 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

Criteria	Description
Population	Adults requiring palliative care in any setting (e.g., hospice, hospital, long-term care, home, community)
Intervention	Integrated palliative care models
Comparator	Q1: Other models of care, waitlist, no comparator Q2: No comparator
Outcomes	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) 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)
Study designs	Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, evidence-based guidelines

References

Health Technology Assessments

No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses

1. Fulton J, LeBlanc T, Porter-Starr K, et al. Management eBrief No. 134. Evidence Report: Integrated Outpatient Palliative Care in Oncology. Washington (DC): Department of Veterans Affairs; 2017: https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/publications/management_briefs/default.cfm?ManagementBriefsMenu=eBrief-no134. Accessed 2021 Aug 16.
See: Key Question #2
2. Chan RJ, Webster J, Bowers A. End-of-life care pathways for improving outcomes in caring for the dying. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2016 Feb 12;2(2):CD008006. [PubMed](#)

Randomized Controlled Trials

No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies

3. Groenewoud AS, Wichmann AB, Dijkstra L, et al. Effects of an Integrated Palliative Care Pathway: More Proactive GPs, Well Timed, and Less Acute Care: A Clustered, Partially Controlled Before-After Study. *J Am Med Dir Assoc*. 2021 02;22(2):297-304. [PubMed](#)

Guidelines and Recommendations

4. Fahy Kavalieratos D, Georgiopoulos AM, Dhingra L, et al. Models of Palliative Care Delivery for Individuals with Cystic Fibrosis: Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Evidence-Informed Consensus Guidelines. *J Palliat Med*. 2021 01;24(1):18-30. [PubMed](#)
5. National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care. Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care, 4th edition. Richmond (VA): National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care; 2018: <https://www.nationalcoalitionhpc.org/ncp>. Accessed 2021 Aug 16.

Appendix 1: References of Potential Interest

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses

Integrated Approach Unclear

6. Chung H, Harding R, Guo P. Palliative Care in the Greater China Region: A Systematic Review of Needs, Models, and Outcomes. *J Pain Symptom Manage*. 2021 03;61(3):585-612. [PubMed](#)
7. Ahluwalia SC, Chen C, Raaen L, et al. A Systematic Review in Support of the National Consensus Project Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care, Fourth Edition. *J Pain Symptom Manage*. 2018 12;56(6):831-870. [PubMed](#)

Scoping Review of Systematic Reviews

8. Evans CJ, Ison L, Ellis-Smith C, et al. Service Delivery Models to Maximize Quality of Life for Older People at the End of Life: A Rapid Review. *Milbank Q*. 2019 03;97(1):113-175. [PubMed](#)

Non-Randomized Studies

Alternative Outcomes

9. Lam TC, Chan SK, Choi CW, et al. Integrative Palliative Care Service Model Improved End-of-Life Care and Overall Survival of Advanced Cancer Patients in Hong Kong: A Review of Ten-Year Territory-Wide Cohort. *J Palliat Med*. 2021 Jan 27;27:27. [PubMed](#)
10. Brenne AT, Knudsen AK, Raj SX, et al. Fully Integrated Oncology and Palliative Care Services at a Local Hospital in Mid-Norway: Development and Operation of an Innovative Care Delivery Model. *Pain Ther*. 2020 Jun;9(1):297-318. [PubMed](#)

Guidelines and Recommendations

Systematic Methodology Not Identified

11. Payne S, Hughes S, Wilkinson J, Hasselaar J, Preston N. Recommendations on priorities for integrated palliative care: transparent expert consultation with international leaders for the InSuP-C project. *BMC Palliat Care*. 2019 Apr 03;18(1):32. [PubMed](#)
12. Tayler C, Porterfield P, Gillian Fyles G, et al. Integration of a palliative approach to care and the role of serious illness conversations in advance care planning. New Westminster (BC): BC Centre for Palliative Care; 2019: <https://bc-cpc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2019-02-22-Integration-of-a-PAC.pdf> Accessed 2021 Aug 16.

Clinical Practice Guidelines

13. Hojjat-Assari S, Rassouli M, Madani M, Heydari H. Developing an integrated model of community-based palliative care into the primary health care (PHC) for terminally ill cancer patients in Iran. *BMC Palliat Care*. 2021 Jun 28;20(1):100. [PubMed](#)
14. Kim YS, Lee J, Moon Y, et al. Development of a senior-specific, citizen-oriented healthcare service system in South Korea based on the Canadian 48/6 model of care. *BMC Geriatr*. 2020 01 31;20(1):32. [PubMed](#)

Review Articles

15. Fahy BN. Current Guidelines for Integration of Palliative Care in Oncology. *Surg Oncol Clin N Am*. 2021 Jul;30(3):431-447. [PubMed](#)
16. Hassankhani H, Rahmani A, Taleghani F, Sanaat Z, Dehghannezhad J. Palliative Care Models for Cancer Patients: Learning for Planning in Nursing (Review). *J Cancer Educ*. 2020 02;35(1):3-13. [PubMed](#)
17. Mondejar-Pont M, Ramon-Aribau A, Gómez-Batiste X. Integrated palliative care definition and constitutive elements: scoping review. *J Integr Care*. 2019;27(4):285-304. [10.1108/JICA-11-2018-0069](https://doi.org/10.1108/JICA-11-2018-0069)
18. Raco M, Burdett T, Heaslip V. Exploring an integrated palliative care model for older people: an integrative review. *J Integr Care*. 2019;27(2):111-122. [10.1108/JICA-10-2018-0065](https://doi.org/10.1108/JICA-10-2018-0065)
19. Lewin WH, Schaefer KG. Integrating palliative care into routine care of patients with heart failure: models for clinical collaboration. *Heart Fail Rev*. 2017 09;22(5):517-524. [PubMed](#)

Additional References

20. Integrated palliative care. In: Hasselaar J, Payne S, Dautzenberg M, eds. Nijmegen (NL): Integrated Palliative Care (InSup-C); 2016: <https://www.insup-c.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/IntegratedPalliativeCare2016.pdf?6bfec1&6bfec1>. Accessed 2021 Aug 16.