



EPEC™-O Canada

Palliative and End-of-Life Care Education for Canadian Oncology Professionals

EPEC™-O Canada is an education program for the inter-professional oncology team. It is a comprehensive curriculum in palliative and end-of-life care developed specifically for clinicians caring for people with cancer. The program is adapted from the EPEC™ -O (Education in Palliative and End-of-Life Care for Oncology).

The program is designed to provide:

- the practicing clinician with information and strategies necessary to provide palliative interventions to his/her patients, and
- educational tools and materials for use in teaching the core competencies of palliative care to others involved in the care of cancer patients.

What is the background to this program?

The Palliative and End of Life Care Working Group of the Cancer Journey Advisory Group (CJAG), Canadian Partnership Against Cancer functions as the expert reference group to provide leadership and direction for national projects and initiatives that integrate palliative and end-of-life care and cancer care. One of the gaps identified by the Palliative and End-of Working Group was education for health professionals who may provide palliative and end-of-life care services for cancer patients and their families.

Why was this program chosen?

The Palliative and End of Life Care Working Group did an extensive review of existing educational programs/curricula in end-of-life care available for oncology professionals. The group determined that a program specifically designed for and with oncology professionals would be necessary to teach the essential principles of palliative and end of life care. The EPEC™-O Curriculum meets that objective. The EPEC Project™ was created with the support of the American Medical Association and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The specific EPEC™ -O Curriculum was produced by The EPEC Project™ with major funding support provided by the National Cancer Institute, with additional funding provided by the Lance Armstrong Foundation. The American Society of Clinical Oncology partners with the EPEC™ -O Project in dissemination of the EPEC™ -O Curriculum. Acknowledgment and appreciation are extended to Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, which houses The EPEC Project™.

Who is overseeing the Canadian program?

A Palliative and End-of-Life Care Education Program Task Group has been established by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer to provide leadership and direction for this project. The task group is being managed by Louise Hanvey, Health Care Consultant.

Other members of the task group include Judy Simpson, Palliative Care Consultant, Halifax; Dr. Larry Librach, Director of the Temmy Latner Centre for Palliative Care and Head, Division of Palliative Care Department of Family and Community Medicine University of Toronto; Dr. Paul Daeninck, Head (Acting), Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology Taché Unit, CancerCare Manitoba, and Assistant Professor, Departments of Internal Medicine and Family Medicine, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg; Dr. Margaret Fitch, Cancer Journey Advisory Group (CJAG) Chair and Head, Oncology Nursing and Supportive Care, Co-Director, Patient and Family Support Program, Odette Cancer Centre, Toronto; and, Irene Nicoll, Cancer Journey Portfolio Director. The task group is currently reviewing and adapting the EPEC™ -O course content for a Canadian environment.

In early 2010 the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer will support pilot training sessions in Canada, one in the east and one in the west. These sessions will be evaluated to determine how the program will proceed in the future

Who will be able to participate in the program?

Up to forty oncology professionals from cancer centres across Canada - from all relevant disciplines - will be invited to participate in these training sessions. The participants are not meant to be experts in palliative and end-of-life care or teaching. Rather, they are to be oncology professionals who have an interest in becoming champions and leaders with their peers in oncology and will commit to train other professionals in their locale.

What is the date and location of the western training session?

The western training session will be held at The Fairmont Palliser Hotel in Calgary on May 14 - 16, 2010.

For further information contact:

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