

Title	Describe the key principles of palliative care and a support worker's role in a palliative approach to care		
Level	3	Credits	3

Purpose	<p>This unit standard is for experienced people providing support in a health or wellbeing setting.</p> <p>People credited with this unit standard are able to describe the key principles of palliative care and a support worker's role in a palliative approach to care.</p>
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Classification	Health, Disability, and Aged Support > Health and Disability Principles in Practice
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- Legislation and codes relevant to this unit standard include but are not limited to:

 - Health and Disability Commissioner Act 1994;
 - Health and Disability Commissioner (Code of Health and Disability Services Consumer's Rights) Regulations 1996 (the Code of Rights);
 - Health and Disability Services (Safety) Act 2001;
 - Health and Safety at Work Act 2015;
 - Human Rights Act 1993;
 - Privacy Act 1993;

The above legislation is available at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/>.
- New Zealand Standards relevant to this unit standard include but are not limited to:

 - NZS 8134.0:2008 *Health and disability services Standards – Health and disability services (general) Standard*;
 - NZS 8134.1:2008 *Health and disability services Standards – Health and disability services (core) Standards*;
 - NZS 8158:2012 *Home and community support sector Standard*;

The above standards are available at <http://www.standards.co.nz>.
- Definitions

Last days of life is the period when a person is dying. It is the period of time when death is imminent and may be measured in hours or days (Palliative Care Council 2015).

Palliative care is care for people of all ages with a life-limiting or life-threatening condition (whether death is days, weeks, months or occasionally even years away) which aims to optimise an individual's quality of life until death by addressing the person's physical, psychosocial, spiritual and cultural needs; and supporting the individual's family/whānau and other caregivers where needed, through the illness

and after death.

The *palliative approach to care* incorporates a positive and open attitude toward death and dying by all service providers working with the person and their family, and respects the wishes of the person in relation to their treatment and care.

Total suffering indicates that there are many factors which contribute to the experience of pain and other physical symptoms and each person must be treated with the knowledge that physical symptoms cannot be treated in isolation.

4 Resources

Hospice New Zealand has a variety of resources available at

<http://www.hospice.org.nz/resources>.

Hospice New Zealand. (2012). *Standards for Palliative Care*. Wellington; available at

<http://www.hospice.org.nz/resources>.

MacLeod, R., Vella-Brincat, J. and MacLeod, A.D. (2016). *Palliative Care Handbook: Guidelines for clinical management and symptom control*. Wellington; available at

<http://www.hospice.org.nz/resources>.

Ministry of Health. (2017). *Te Ara Whakapiri: Principles and guidance for the last days of life*. (2nd ed). Wellington: Ministry of Health. This publication and the accompanying *Te Ara Whakapiri: Toolkit* are available at

<http://www.hospice.org.nz/resources/te-ara-whakapiri>.

Advanced Care Planning <http://www.advancecareplanning.org.nz/>.

5 Additional definitions relevant to the palliative approach to care can be found in the New Zealand Palliative Care Glossary (2015) provided by the Ministry of Health

<http://www.health.govt.nz/publications>.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Describe the key principles of palliative care.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 The differences between palliative care and care in the last days of life are described in terms of their focus.

Range evidence is required of two differences.

- 1.2 A palliative approach to care is described in terms of its key underpinning principles.

- 1.3 The concept of 'total suffering' is described in terms of its place in a palliative approach to care.

Outcome 2

Describe a support worker's role in a palliative approach to care.

Performance criteria

2.1 Opportunities and challenges present in palliative care are identified and described in terms of their impact on the support worker and/or the person being supported and/or their family/whānau.

Range evidence is required of two opportunities and two challenges for the support worker and/or the person being supported and/or their family/whānau.

2.2 A support worker's role in a palliative approach to care is described in terms of their role in an interdisciplinary team.

Planned review date	31 December 2021
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	16 April 2015	N/A
Revision	2	23 November 2017	N/A
Rollover and Revision	3	24 October 2019	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0024
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact Careerforce info@careerforce.org.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.