

Paramedic Community of Practice

Introductory Session



Facilitator: Karen O'Brien

Date: October 7th, 2022

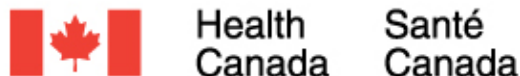
Panelists: Dr. David Henderson,
Lisa Weatherbee, RN
Dr. Jitin Sondhi,
Kristina Anton, Paramedic
Stuart Woolley, Paramedic
Alana Corkery

The Palliative Care ECHO Project

The Palliative Care ECHO Project is a 5-year national initiative to cultivate communities of practice and establish continuous professional development among health care providers across Canada who care for patients with life-limiting illness.

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The Palliative Care ECHO Project is supported by a financial contribution from Health Canada. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of Health Canada.



Introductions

Facilitator:

Karen O'Brien

Frontline paramedic since 1999, with a side of community paramedicine.

SWORBHP Associate Instructor

Pallium Facilitator

Panelists:

Dr. David Henderson

Senior Medical Director Integrated Palliative Care NSHA

Medical Director Colchester East Hants Palliative Care

Service

Lisa Weatherbee

BN RN CHPCN©

Pallium Master Facilitator/Coach

Dr. Jitin Sondhi, MD, CCFP (PC), FCFP

Regional Clinical Co-Lead, Palliative Care, OH West

Adult and Pediatric Palliative Care

Kristina Anton, BScN, ACP

Paramedic Specialist, BC Emergency Health Services

Stuart Woolley

Paramedic since 2003 in UK & Canada, current

Paramedic Practice Leader in BCEHS leading Palliative

Care, Low Acuity Patient management & Paramedic

Specialist support.

Alana Corkery

EMBA, Account Manager at Pallium Canada

Welcome and Reminders

- Please introduce yourself in the chat!
- Your microphones are muted. There will be time during this session when you can unmute yourself for questions and discussion.
- You are welcome to use the chat function at any time to ask questions and add comments
- Remember not to disclose any Personal Health Information (PHI) during the session
- This session is being recorded and will be emailed to registrants within the next week

Session Learning Objectives

Upon completing the session, participants will be able to:

- Describe the role of Paramedics in providing a Palliative approach to care
- Explain the importance of foundational training
- Describe some of the initiatives across Canada that have supported paramedics in providing this kind of care
- Describe the positive impact paramedics can have on patients with life-limiting illness and their families (as well as the positive impact it can have on paramedics' job satisfaction)
- Describe the importance of collaborating with local teams (both in terms of forming and sustaining relationships)
- Identify priority continuing education topics for paramedics who have already acquired foundational knowledge

What is a palliative approach?

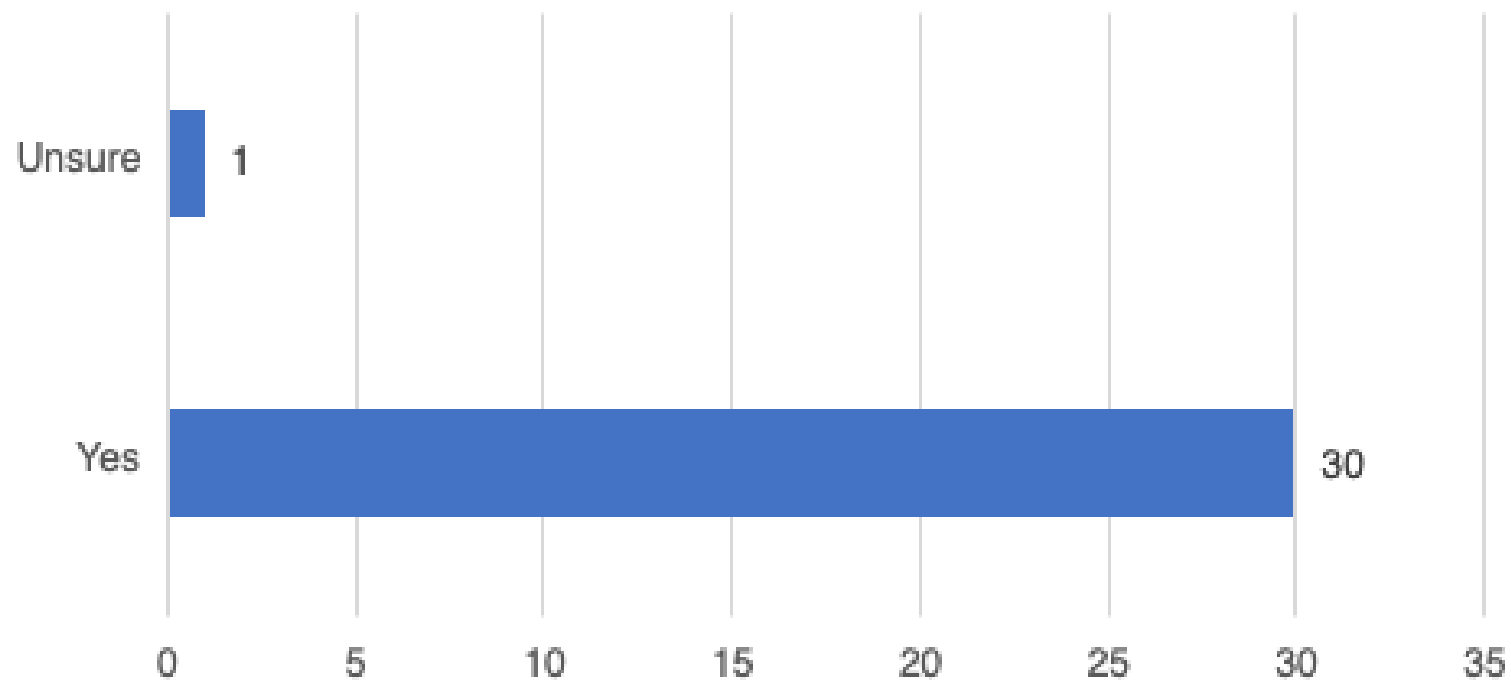
“An approach to care that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problems associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification, impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual.”

World Health Organization (WHO)

Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA),
Model to Guide Hospice Palliative Care: Based on
National Principles and Norms of Practice, Revised and Condensed Edition: 2013

Poll 1

As Paramedics, do you feel you play a role in the palliative care approach?



Role of Paramedics in Palliative Care Approach

- There is a growing body of evidence that shows that most patients would prefer to die at home.
- Increasing demand for community emergency and non-emergency palliative care delivered by paramedics
- Often community-based services and clinical support is difficult to access after-hours, making ambulance services the only option available to patients and families.
- These factors contribute to paramedics being uniquely positioned to respond to palliative or end of life emergencies.

Role of Paramedics in Palliative Care Approach

- When patients experience an acute exacerbation of illness, or in cases where family or other care providers require additional support, paramedics are often an accessible contact within the health care system.
- It is apparent that throughout the world paramedics frequently encounter patients with palliative needs and have an essential role in identification of, and care of these patients.

Helmer, J., Baranowski, L., Armour, R., Tallon, J., Willisroft, D., & Brittain, M. (2021). Developing a paramedic approach to palliative emergencies. *Progress in Palliative Care*, 29(2), 72–75.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09699260.2020.1852656> .

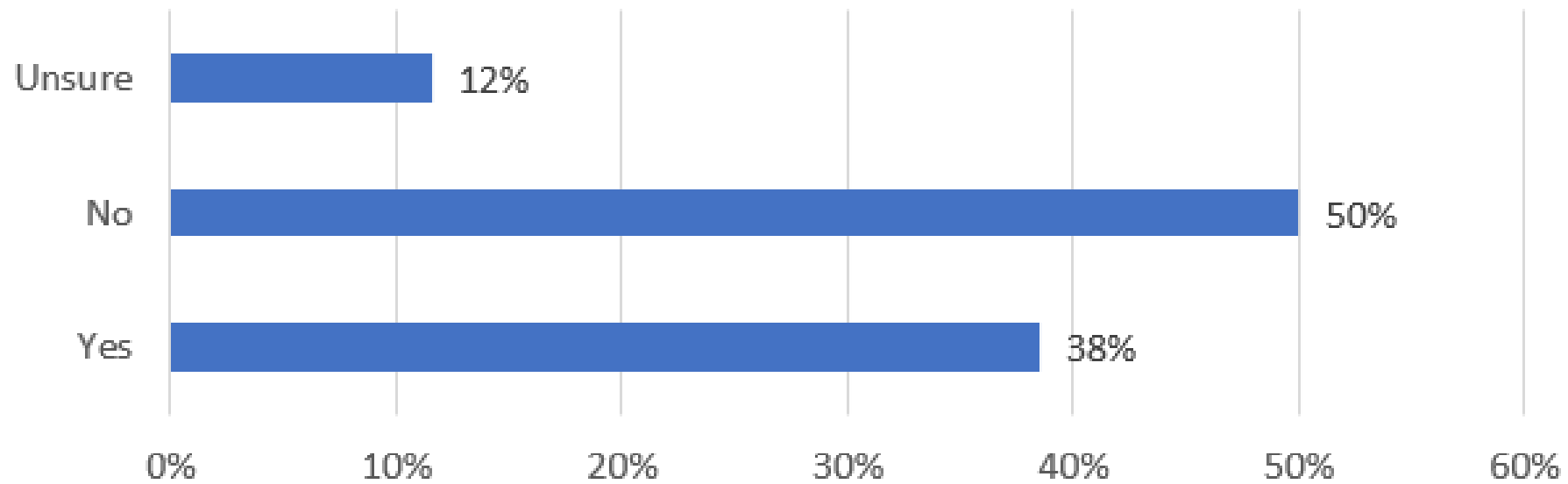
Role of Paramedics in Palliative Care Approach

- Responsible for development of care plan to meet patient's needs (in consultation with local oversight physician or clinical support service as necessary)
- Provide emotional support to patient and family
- Awareness and understanding of local palliative treatment guidelines
- Provide care based on patient wishes and goals of care
- Provide education to patient and family
- Identify patients who would benefit from a palliative care approach and advocate for an early palliative care approach
- Refer patients to a palliative support system as necessary

Source: Leap Paramedic. Pallium Canada. (2021, June 11). Retrieved September 27, 2022, from <http://pallium.ca/course/leap-paramedic/>

Poll 2

As a Paramedic, is your role in a palliative care approach clearly defined?





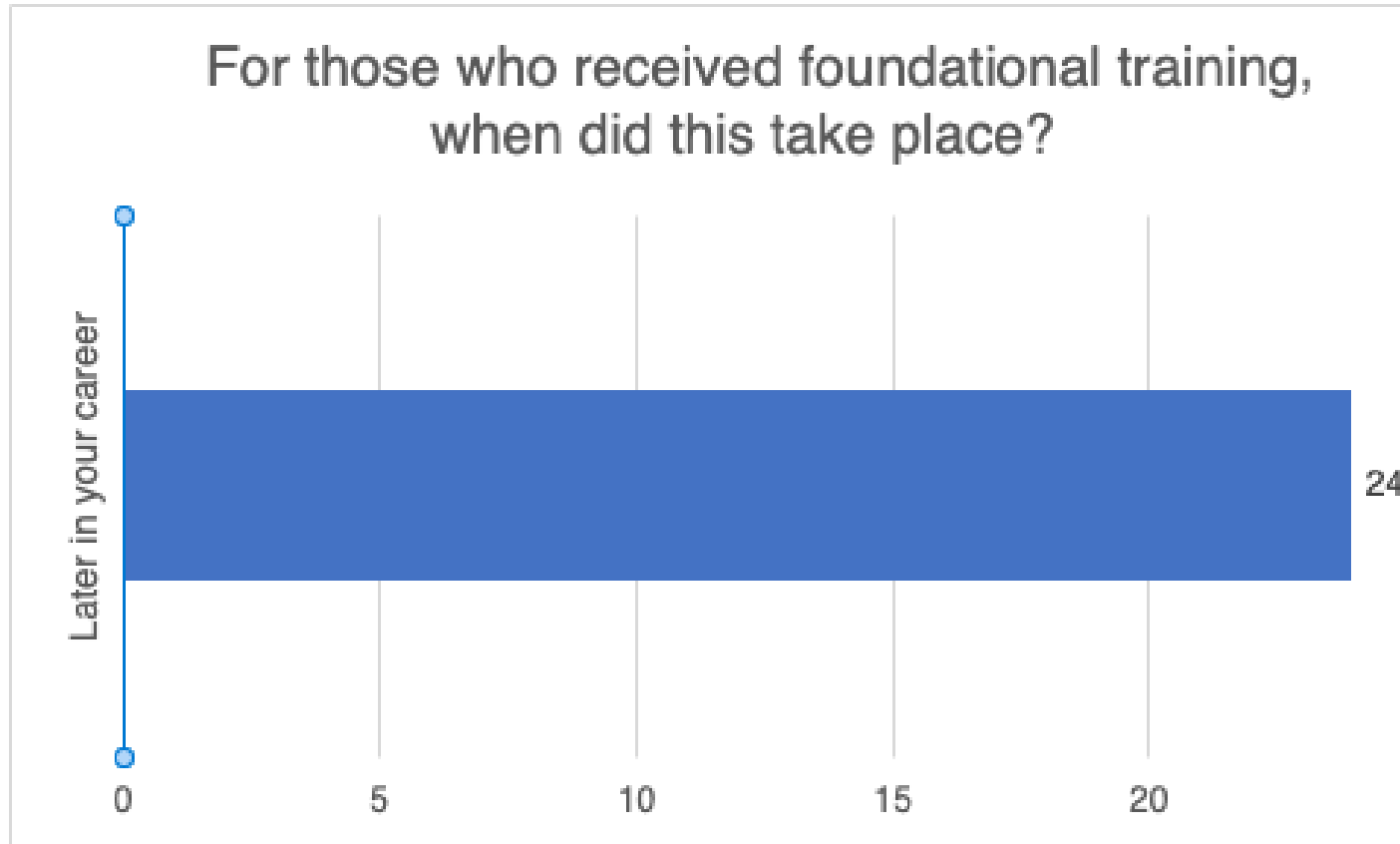
Role of Paramedics in Palliative Care Approach

- Do you have any concerns with integrating a palliative care approach into your practice?
- Some of the concerns that have been identified include:
 - Palliative care is an approach that is focused on the prevention and relief of suffering rather than acute resuscitation. This can be viewed as contrary to traditional models of paramedic care.
 - Many paramedic service models require mandatory transport of all patients to hospital. Paramedics lack support or predefined frameworks to follow when patients' goals of care indicate non conveyance.
 - Sometimes documentation is not available at the scene to determine or confirm the patient's goals of care, which can complicate decisions regarding resuscitation or conveyance.
 - Increased time on scene

Poll 3



Poll 4



Foundational Training on the Palliative Care Approach

- Many paramedics have identified the need for further education specific to palliative care.
- “Paramedics are willing to care for dying patients in expected death and see this aspect of patient care as a vital part of their practice, but consistently express an overwhelming need to receive more palliative and end of life care education as part of their undergraduate education and continual professional updating”.

Blackmore, T.A. (2022). What is the role of paramedics in palliative and end of life care? *Palliative Medicine*, 36(3), 402-404.

- Further education increases paramedic confidence when providing palliative care

Foundational Training on the Palliative Care Approach

Targeted education increases paramedic comfort with:

- Pain and symptom management
- Communication skills
- Complexities surrounding advanced care planning
- Decision making regarding conveyance
- Knowledge of local referral pathways



LEAP

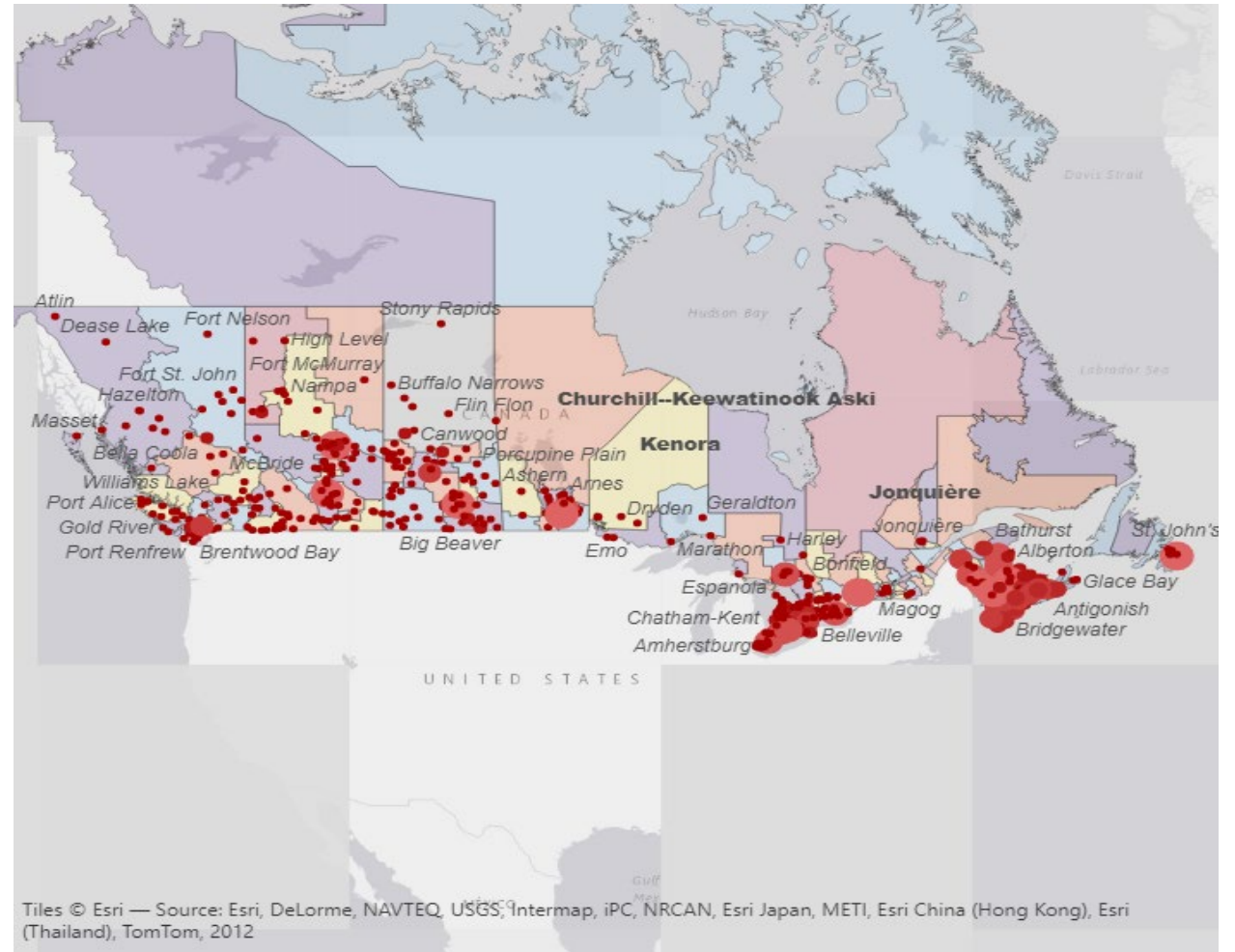
PARAMEDIC

- Learn the essentials for providing a palliative care approach
- Ideal for Paramedics and Emergency Medical Service professionals
- **Key features:**
 - Created and reviewed by Canada's leading palliative care experts
 - Taught by local paramedic experts and experienced palliative care practitioners
 - Nationally recognized certificate
 - Evidence-based and case-based
- **Delivery Modes**
 - Online: 8 hours of online learning
 - In Person: 6-8 hours of online learning + 6 hours of case-based face-to-face discussions



LEAP PARAMEDIC

Pallium Canada has trained **5335**
Paramedics to date!

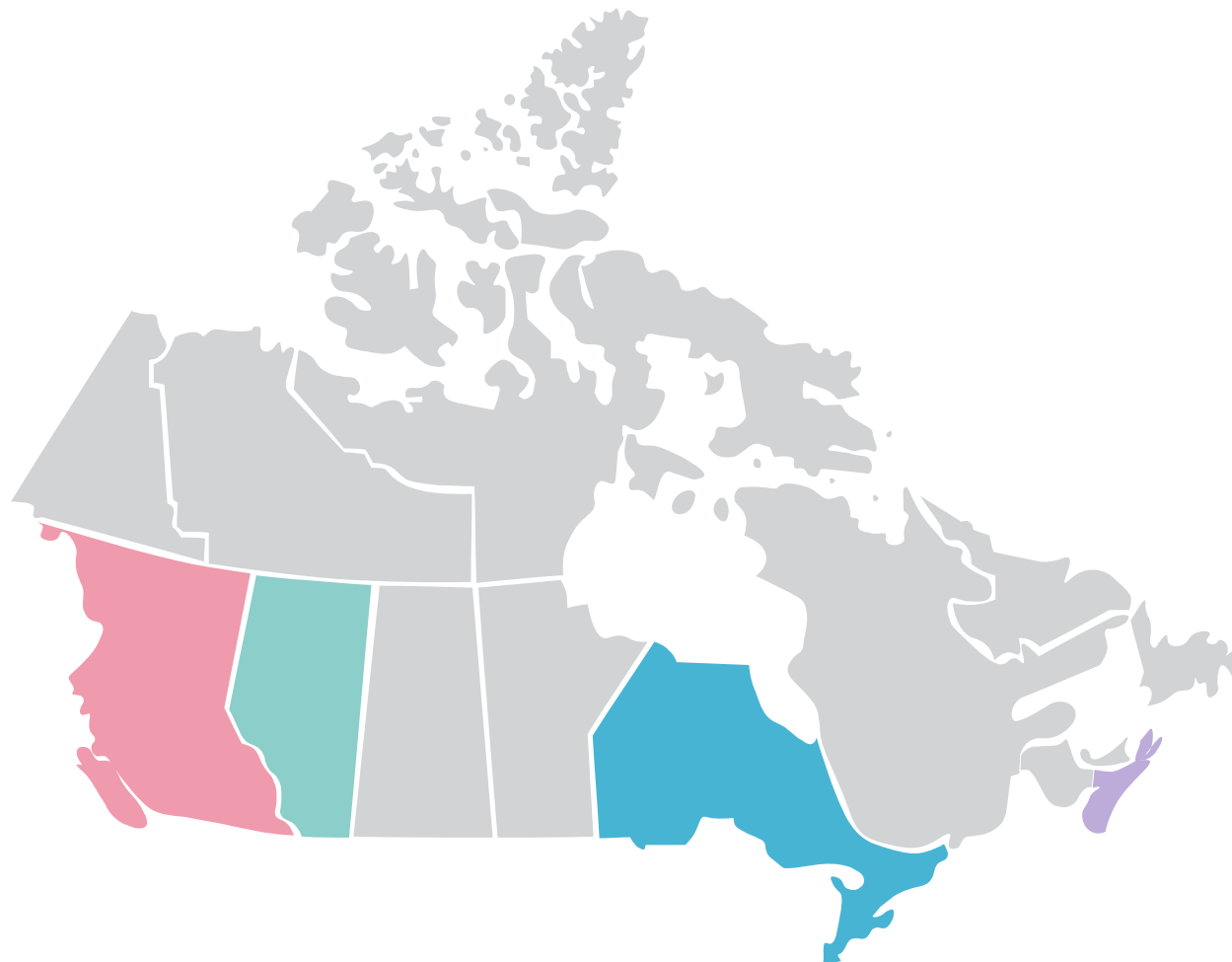


Want to learn more?

Visit <https://www.pallium.ca/course/leap-paramedic/>

Contact Alana Corkery at acorkery@pallium.ca

Initiatives Across Canada



Positive Impacts

Some Benefits of Increased Palliative and End of Life Education:

- Leads to quality patient centred care
- Paramedics have increased confidence and satisfaction in the care they provide
- Appropriate conveyance and adherence to goals of care, as well as reduced inappropriate conveyance to ED
- Reduced inappropriate resuscitation attempts
- Reduced time on scene and recontact

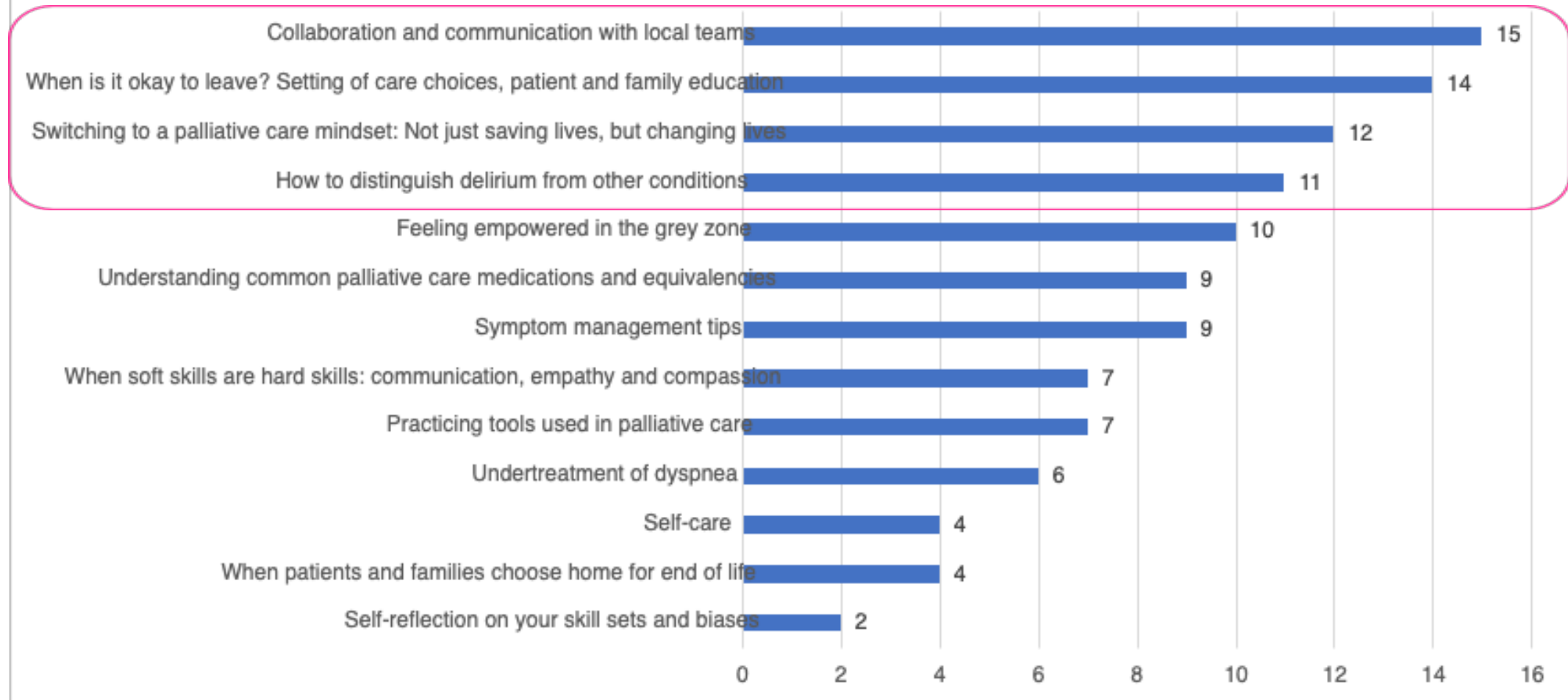
Murphy-Jones, G., Lavery, D., & Stonehouse, J. (2021). Infusing the palliative into Paramedicine: Inter-professional collaboration to improve the end of life care response of UK Ambulance Services. *Progress in Palliative Care*, 29(2), 66-71.

How this Community of Practice Can help

- A meeting place for paramedics with a shared interest in providing a palliative care approach
- This community of practice will provide you with an opportunity to:
 - Share stories, perspectives & knowledge with your peers
 - Practice and maintain what you've learned from foundational training
 - get support with challenging cases
 - Share pearls of wisdom

Poll 4

Votes for Paramedic COP Topics



Session Wrap-Up

- Please fill out our feedback survey! A link has been added to the chat
- Help us spread the word! A copy of our flyer for this COP has also been added to the chat
- Join us for our next session on November 4th from 12-1pm ET

Thank You



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