

OSLO METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY STORBYUNIVERSITETET

Beyond Treatment: A Scoping Review of Pediatric Nursing Competencies in Palliative Care



Silje Guldbrandsen^{1, 2}, Siri Tangerud^{1,3}, Tove Elisabet Børsting^{1,4} ¹Oslo Metropolitan University, Fakultet for Helsevitenskap, Institutt for sykepleie og helsefremmende arbeid ²Barnemedisinsk sengepost, Barneklinikken, Oslo University Hospital ³Barneintensiv, Akuttklinikken, Oslo University Hospital ⁴Sykepleien Siguldb@ous-hf.no; sirtan@ous-hf.no

Introduction Pediatric palliative care (PPC) is an essential field, with an estimated 21 million children worldwide in need of these services³. As the demand for PPC continues to grow, healthcare providers must develop specialized competencies to ensure

Method

This study followed Arksey & O'Malley's⁷ framework and the first two synthesis steps from Thomas & Harden.⁸

Context:

Pediatric medical wards & intensive care units

comprehensive care.² End-of-life (EOL) care in PPC goes beyond managing physical symptoms—it also involves addressing emotional, psychological, and spiritual needs. To fulfill the nursing role effectively, it is crucial to identify the core competencies required to enhance the quality of life for both pediatric patients and their families.⁽³⁻

Research Question:

«What competencies are necessary for the pediatric nurse in care for children where disease-oriented treatment has been discontinued? A scoping review»

• Excluded: Hospice care & traumatic causes of impending death **Screening Process:**

- Identified citations: 1,217
- Duplicates removed: 748
- Studies screened: 470 (+1 from citation search)
- Full-text reviewed: 86
 - Final inclusion: 7 studies⁽¹⁴⁻²⁰⁾

RESULTS



Conveying Medical Information -----Providing Emotional Support -----' Reported Inexperience and Lack of __-' Competency in EOL Communication

Cultural and Emotional Aspects of a Childs Death

Cultural Sensitivity ------Emotional Preparedness -----Family Values Shape Grief, Bereavement, and Death Rituals WON N

Pediatric Nursing Competencies in Palliative Care Reduce suffering and improve quality of life

- 4- Recognizing Impending Death
 - Lack of Competency in Needed Care at Time of Death

Pain Management

- Pharmacological and Nonpharmalogical
- Approaches
- Many Nurses Report Low Competence and Frequent Errors in Assessment

ס'ס Decision-making and Ethical Challenges in Pediatric EOL care

---- DNR Discussions

---- Treatment Withdrawal

Need for Greater Focus on Ethics and Legal Considerations in PPC Education

Conclusion

Globally, 21 million children require PPC making enhanced EOL care competencies crucial for nurses to provide confident and high-quality care.

This scoping review identifies key competency gaps in pediatric EOL care and highlights five essential themes for competency development:

- Communication
- Symptom management and recognizing death
- Pain management
- Cultural and emotional aspects
- Ethical decision-making

Rather than focusing solely on pedagogical strategies, educational efforts should prioritize these critical themes to ensure that nurses are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge. Standardized training programs are essential to prepare nurses for providing compassionate, competent, and holistic care, ultimately improving both clinical practice and patient-family experiences.



