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Improving Inpatient Pediatric End of Life Care Education for Bedside Nurses

Grace Wolcott

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Acknowledgements

- Brenda Hamel-Bissell Ed.D., RN
- Sara Burton MSN/Ed, RNC-NIC, RN-BC
- NICU, PICU, pediatrics and L&D staff



- “I declare that there are no relationships, conditions, or circumstances that present a conflict of interest relevant to the content of this presentation.”

Introduction — Problem

- 45,000 infants, children and adolescents die in the US annually (Feudtner, 2013).
- Bedside nurses in inpatient pediatric units receive minimal education on the topic of pediatric end of life care.



Rationale

- Most children die in hospitals, largely in the PICU setting (Browning & Solomon, 2005)
- Lack of knowledge around pediatric palliative care may create hesitation and poor communication amongst providers (Peng et al, 2016)
- Pye (2016) implemented the IPPC curriculum as part of a multi-modal plan to educate NICU nurses on the topic of pediatric palliative care in addition to videos and simulation-based training with success.



Purpose & Aims

- Improve nursing comfort level in providing inpatient pediatric end of life care through online educational modules
- Expand nursing bedside care abilities with end of life care initiatives.
- Upgrade nursing access to resources for pediatric end of life care.



Context

- UVMMC NICU, PICU, Pediatrics and L&D
- Survey and module made available to all RNs
- Team included Brenda Hamel-Bissell, Sara Burton & Katie Dezotelle
- Surveys and modules were sent electronically



Ethical Considerations

- Highly sensitive topic that can be difficult for some staff members due to personal or professional history
- Surveys were anonymous
- No conflict of interest identified
- Was approved by UVMMC nursing research program
- IRB exempt



Intervention(s)

- Needs assessment survey was sent out nurses on Baird 5, NICU, PICU and L&D
- IPPC online educational module and survey on the topic of pediatric palliative care was then sent after needs assessment was complete
- Online format allowed it to reach as many staff members as possible and allows the information to be accessible 24/7.
- Nurse educators provided input and guidance for distribution of the module.



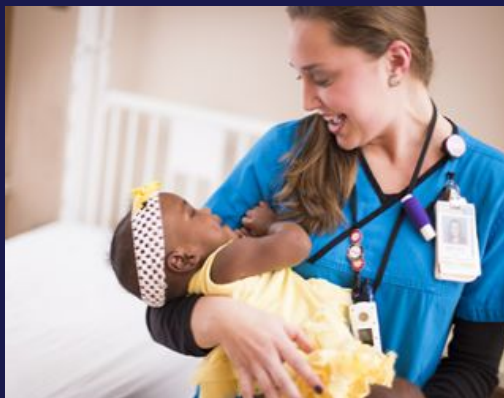
Study of the Intervention(s)

- Pre and post surveys to assess comfort level at baseline and after completing the module



Analysis

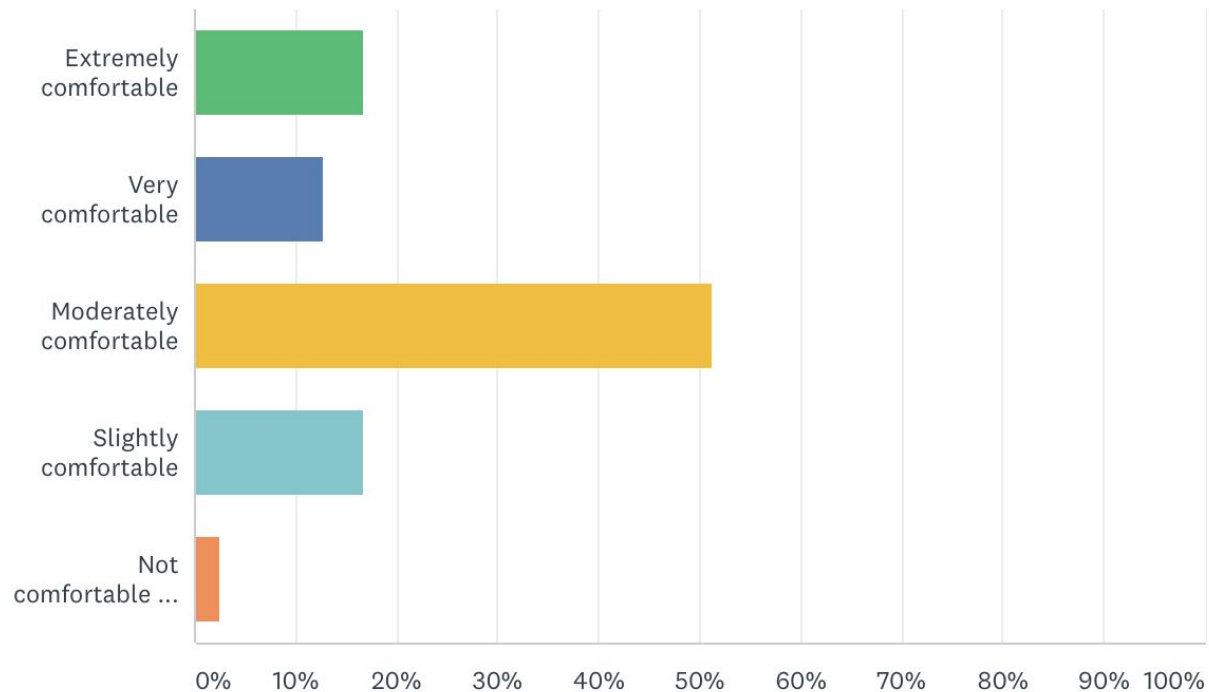
- Compared responses from pre and post survey in terms of nurse comfort level and satisfaction with training module
- Obtained a baseline needs assessment to confirm the need for further education on the topic of pediatric palliative care.



Results

How comfortable do you feel providing end of life care to your patients?

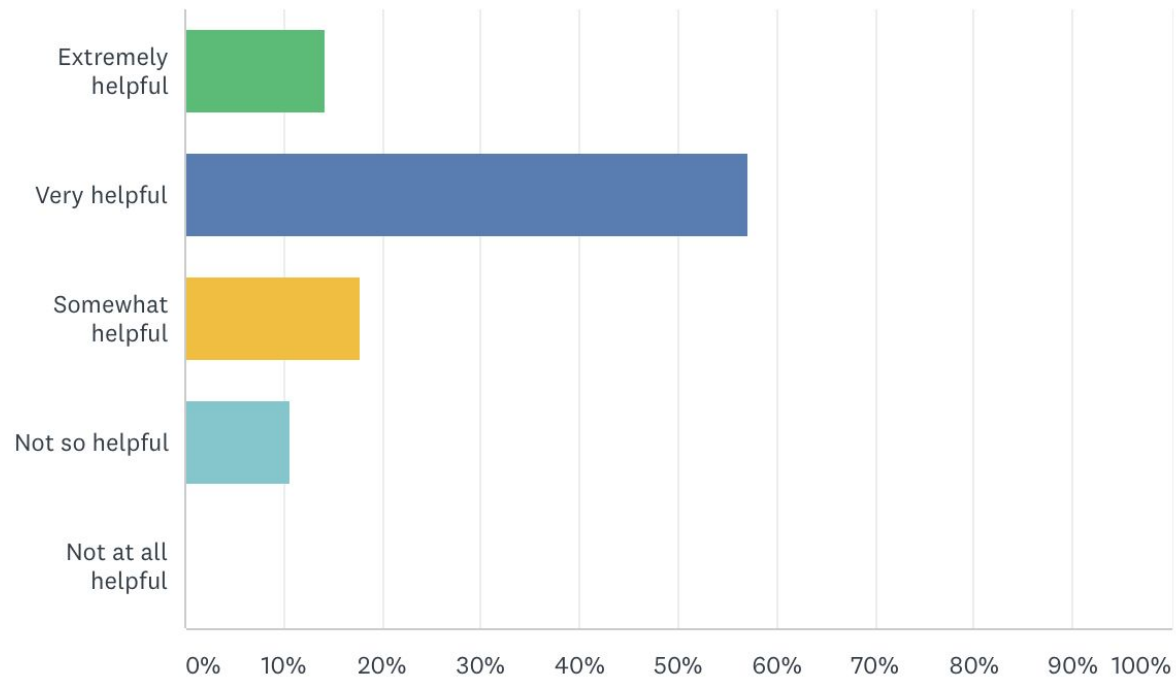
Answered: 78 Skipped: 0



Results

How helpful did you find the communication and relationships PowerPoint?

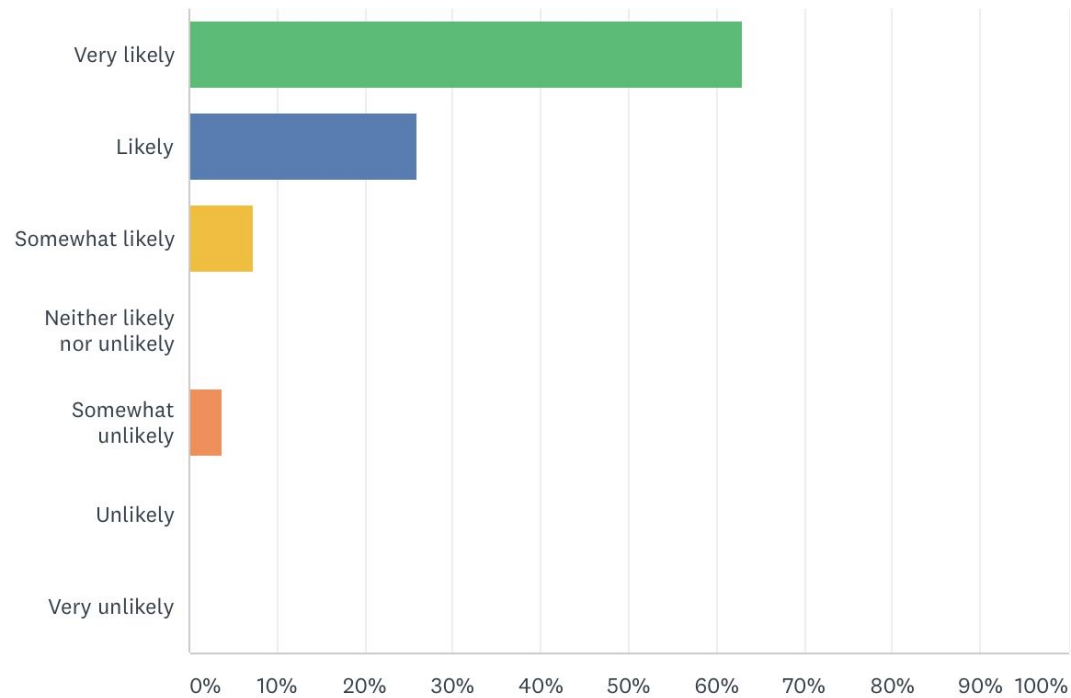
Answered: 28 Skipped: 0



Results

How likely would you be to attend/participate in further pediatric palliative care training?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 1



Interpretation

- Nurses welcomed more education to help them better perform their job duties
- Project piqued the interest of many nurses about furthering preparation on this topic
- Raised awareness about pediatric palliative care education



Limitations

- Did not reach outpatient nurses from Children's Specialty Clinic, did not include Mother-Baby nurses
- Lack of response to follow up survey due to timing
- Not able to incentivize responses due to hospital policy



Conclusions

- Project is most useful in showing that there is a need for more pediatric palliative care education amongst bedside nurses
- Modules and education would likely be useful for other populations such as outpatient specialty clinic nurses, VNA nurses etc.
- Consider providing palliative care training to new hires in areas like NICU, PICU etc., or annual training
- Consider trialing or studying different ways of educating, such as modules, in person trainings, simulations etc.



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