

Title: A Needs Assessment of Community Nurses to Facilitate their Role in Global Palliative Care

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Background: Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including cancer, cardiovascular and chronic respiratory diseases, now account for nearly 70% of deaths worldwide¹. WHO estimates that 40 million adults and children need palliative care every year and only 14% of those in need receive care and the majority of those recipients live in high income countries². As a global public health concern³⁻⁵, nurses practicing in the community are ideally suited to deliver primary palliative care and narrow this gap between need and access. However, there is scant information on community health nurses' role, education needs, work satisfiers or barriers.

Objectives: The purpose of this survey of community nurses is to better understand their role, practice of palliative care, satisfiers and barriers to their work to inform a needs assessment for palliative care education.

Methods: A pilot descriptive survey designed by global health and palliative care experts, along with a letter of invitation, was available to health care professionals affiliated with the Middle East Cancer Consortium (MECC) from November 2017 to June 2018. Survey data was entered into an SPSS file and descriptive statistics were used to summarize the data.

Results: Community nurses from 37 countries responded and 458 surveys were included in the data analysis. 62% of respondents provide palliative care frequently or always, 77% of respondents assess and manage pain frequently or always and 74% of respondents discuss goals of care with patients. Only 38% of respondents report having continuing education in palliative care.

Conclusions: The survey results will inform the development of a global educational intervention to teach primary palliative care to community nurses.