2nd Annual TVN Conference on
Improving care for the frail elderly

TVN Improving care
for the frail elderly

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Poster # 24

Title of poster: Interdisciplinary End-of-Life Care Education Using High Fidelity Simulation in Long Term Care

Abstract
Almost 75% of residents die in their long term care (LTC) home (Palliative Care Alliance, 2010). The Ontario Long-Term Care Homes Act (2010) states that all staff providing direct care to residents must receive training and re-training in the area of palliative care, however, little training is available and evaluation of education strategies is lacking. The need for high-quality, standardized, on-the-job training will increase over the next decade as LTC increasingly assumes a hospice-like function for frail seniors (Palliative Care Alliance, 2010). Effective and innovative educational strategies tailored for LTC staff that improve provision of palliative care and enhance team work are urgently needed.
The objective of this educational research is to implement and evaluate simulation as an immersive experiential approach to teach palliative care to teams of LTC staff.
Research questions:
Can use of simulation improve the palliative care knowledge and skills of interdisciplinary LTC providers?
Can use of simulation improve the self-perceived palliative care competence of interdisciplinary LTC providers?
Can use of simulation promote interdisciplinary teamwork in LTC homes?
How does the using simulation positively and negatively impact the palliative care education experiences of interdisciplinary LTC providers?
This research will evaluate the process and outcomes of a simulation palliative care training program with interdisciplinary LTC providers. Staff from 2 different LTC homes will participate in education using HFS as a pedagogical approach to gain skills in providing palliative care, caring communication and teamwork. Four simulation training modules with accompanying resources will be developed and implemented: advanced care planning, teamwork, holistic care planning and caring end-of-life communication. The process of learning and the qualitative experience of the participants will be evaluated through debriefing focus groups held at the end of each of the four simulation sessions. Outcomes will be evaluated by having participants complete pre and post surveys.
Enhancing knowledge mobilization, the reach of this research will be expanded by inviting educators from Baycrest Long term Care Home and Elisabeth-Bruyere Residence to Thunder Bay to learn to replicate the simulation educational intervention in their LTC settings in Toronto and Ottawa. Through these collaborations, the findings of this research will benefit LTC homes throughout Ontario.
This research is aligned with TVN's mission to improve the care of the seriously ill elderly while evaluating simulation as an educational strategy to address the palliative care training gap for healthcare providers working in LTC. It will generate knowledge that can be used to 1)

advance the use of HFS in continuing interdisciplinary health care education for LTC staff, 2) promote interdisciplinary teamwork in LTC 3) advance educational research in LTC and, 4) improve the knowledge, skills, self-perceived competence and teamwork of LTC home staff so they are better prepared to care for people who are dying and their families. This pilot project will generate evidence that will begin to determine the effectiveness of HFS to teach palliative and end-of-life care to interdisciplinary health care providers and promote palliative care teamwork.