

## **QUALITY PALLIATIVE CARE IN LONG TERM CARE: A FRAMEWORK AND RESOURCES SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE**

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**Brief Description of Research or Project:** Four long term care homes in Ontario partnered with the Quality Palliative Care in Long Term Care (QPC-LTC) Alliance for five years in a Participatory Action Research project funded by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the Canadian Institute for Health Research. The research created a Framework to guide formalization of Palliative Care programs in long term care (LTC) homes. This framework includes three core components; a philosophy of care; program description and organizational policy; and a process of change. The framework provides over forty innovations and resources for use by staff and managers to support organizational change. The resources created support long term care homes with physical care, psychosocial care, communication, education, and the development of community partnerships. **Why is this research important to profile at the Research Day 2014?** In Ontario, 1 in 5 (17-22%) residents die in LTC each year. Most residents entering long term care homes have multiple chronic and life limiting illnesses. Long term care homes are expected to provide safe consistent and high quality resident centred care. This expectation extends to the end of life. Therefore, developing formalized palliative care programs assists long term care homes to achieve overall resident care goals. The benefit of developing a palliative care program include enhanced staff understanding of palliative care and end of life care, improved communication and teamwork, a more clearly defined personal support worker role, stronger community partnerships, improved family satisfaction and fewer transfers to hospital at end of life. This presentation will review how the QPC-LTC Framework supports LTC homes in meeting the LTCH Act 2007 regulation requiring all LTC staff to receive annual PC education. In addition to meeting regulatory requirements, in January 2014 there will be five new palliative care standards added to Accreditation Canada's new LTC services standards. This presentation will demonstrate how the QPC-LTC framework can support LTC homes with tools and resources that can be used in meeting the new palliative care standards. All tools and resources presented are accessible on line at [www.palliativealliance.ca](http://www.palliativealliance.ca).