



## Poster # 34

**Title of poster:** Evaluating the Palliative Performance Scale for the Long-Term Care Home Setting

### Abstract

**Background:** Health care providers at Canadian long-term care (LTC) homes provide care to older adults with significant illnesses, and functional and cognitive decline. They need to be able to identify changes in residents' health and functional statuses in order to promote comfort and provide appropriate interventions. The Palliative Performance Scale (PPS) (version 2) is a tool widely used by palliative care and other clinicians to assess and communicate the functional status of their patients, according to five key criteria. However, this tool has not been tested or evaluated in the LTC home setting.

**Objectives:** To help determine the PPS's suitability in the LTC home setting, the objectives of this project are to: 1) test the interrater reliability of the PPS between licensed nurses and personal support workers; 2) collect stakeholder feedback on the use of the PPS; and 3) develop and refine approaches to integrate the PPS assessment and educational components into an electronic documentation program.

**Methods:** To learn more about the use of the PPS, a review of the academic literature was performed using five databases (PubMed, Web of Science, Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health, Ageline and Medline) with the key words, Palliative Performance Scale. To test the interrater reliability of the PPS, it was determined that (n=5) personal support workers and (n=5) licensed nurse raters will need to assess 52 residents' PPS scores to obtain an intraclass correlation of .8. To obtain stakeholder feedback, using a qualitative descriptive approach, semi-structured interviews will be conducted with clinicians, family members and residents. The interview questions will focus on learning about the PPS's potential use in LTC home practice, and any facilitators and barriers to using the tool in this setting. To integrate the PPS into practice, key individuals from the LTC home setting who are responsible for overseeing the electronic charting and documentation will be invited to participate in a working group to develop and refine PPS policy and procedures.

**Preliminary Findings and Next Steps:** A search of the literature returned 1020 articles published in English, between 1996 and August 2014. After accounting for duplicates, 633 articles were identified. Titles and abstracts were screened for an inclusion of the tool. Of the articles that included the PPS, the main themes in the literature included: using the PPS for survival or mortality prediction, evaluating psychometric properties, describing characteristics or personal factors of a study sample, and triggering palliative care interventions. Following clearance from McMaster University's review board, the project will commence.

Conclusions: The results will be important, if supported by the study, in encouraging the widespread, consistent use of the PPS in LTC homes. The use of the PPS will ultimately create opportunities to dialogue about palliative and end-of-life care interventions with dying residents and family members.

