DECOMPOSING END-OF-LIFE EDUCATION: IDENTIFYING SUCCESSES AND GAPS IN CURRENT EDUCATION PRACTICE

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Purpose: The purpose of this presentation is to share an innovative method for identifying critical components of palliative and end-of-life care education, derived from the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) core curriculum. The identified components can be adapted into a survey to be used to determine components’ presence or absence within baccalaureate nursing programs. In the presentation, the researcher will present the decomposition method as well as the resulting identified key curricular components of the ELNEC core curriculum.

Methods: The ELNEC has developed a core curriculum for palliative and end-of-life care which is used to train nurses and nurse educators in accordance with current evidence based practice and healthcare standards. In the decomposition technique, programs are broken down into their key, essential components. Through this technique, the critical curricular components for palliative and end-of-life care education will be identified. The identified components can be adapted into a survey by which current baccalaureate programs can be evaluated for their inclusion or omission of critical content.

Findings: Critical curricular components have been identified for each of the eight ELNEC core curriculum modules. A survey was developed that includes these critical components. The survey will be used to assess a current baccalaureate curriculum in a future study.

Conclusions: This innovative decomposition technique provides a useful way for educational standards to be evaluated in detail within current baccalaureate nursing education programs.

Acknowledgement: Thank you to Dr. Gary Borich for sharing his decomposition technique.