

Introduction to the Curriculum

What is the goal of this curriculum?

The goal of this curriculum is to improve the quality of care that patients with HIV/AIDS receive throughout the illness and at the end of life. This is accomplished through increasing the capacity of the AIDS Education and Training Centers to train clinicians in palliative care, and through increasing the HIV/AIDS care skills of palliative care clinicians. This curriculum is designed to provide the materials which medical educators need to deliver effective training sessions on a number of palliative care topics.

What topics does this curriculum cover?

The curriculum is divided into modules, with educational materials related to the following topics:

- ▶ Overview of HIV/AIDS Palliative Care
- ▶ Advance Care Planning
- ▶ Communicating with Patients & Families
 - Communicating with Patients & Families about End-of-Life Care
 - Giving Bad News
- ▶ Cross-Cultural Issues in HIV/AIDS Palliative Care
- ▶ Pain and Symptom Management
 - Assessing & Managing Pain in HIV/AIDS
 - Palliative Management of Dyspnea in HIV/AIDS
 - Complementary Medicine and HIV/AIDS Palliative Care
 - Symptom Management in HIV Disease
 - Pain Management for Patients with a History of Substance Use
- ▶ Psychosocial & Psychiatric Issues
 - Helping Patients to Have a Good Death
 - Psychiatric Issues in HIV/AIDS Palliative Care
 - Spiritual Issues in HIV/AIDS Palliative Care
- ▶ Pediatric HIV/AIDS Palliative Care
- ▶ HIV/AIDS Palliative Care in Corrections
- ▶ HIV/AIDS and Hepatic Failure

What are the components of the curriculum?

Modules include:

- Learning objectives
- PowerPoint slide presentations with accompanying slide notes
- Skills building and interactive exercises
- Sample agendas
- Evaluation forms
- Suggested handouts
- Resource lists

In addition, 7 video trigger tape segments are included, and these may be used with several of the modules.

How and why was this curriculum developed?

Anti-retroviral therapies have transformed AIDS from a progressively fatal disease to a chronic illness; Clinicians providing care to patients with AIDS need palliative care education designed specifically for this clinical context. In addition, improved palliative care is important in AIDS because, despite advances in highly active anti-retroviral therapy (HAART) and sharp declines in mortality rates, AIDS remains a leading cause of death among Americans aged 25 to 44 years.

In a unique collaboration between the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), the University of Washington's Northwest AIDS Education and Training Center (NW AETC) was contracted to develop curricula for the National AETCs and their medical educators. The Center for Palliative Care Education was formed to be a national resource on HIV/AIDS palliative care. This HRSA/RWJF collaboration was forged with the dual intent of increasing the capacity of the AETCs to train clinicians in palliative care, and of increasing the HIV/AIDS care skills of palliative care clinicians.

These curriculum modules were developed by clinicians with expertise in HIV/AIDS and in palliative care. The modules were piloted, evaluated, reviewed, and revised before being made publicly available here.

Who can use this curriculum?

These materials can be used in training sessions for health care professionals, including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, mental health providers, social workers, and other palliative care clinicians. Although the materials include information specific to care for patients with HIV/AIDS, clinicians who do not work in HIV/AIDS care will find the information useful.

How can this curriculum be used?

The materials can be adapted to the needs of your training session participants, to your time frame, and to your training format. The materials can be used intact, or individual elements can be selected, modified, and used as needed. You may wish to review resource materials listed for each topic for additional background to help you prepare for delivering training sessions.

We've piloted this curriculum and based on these experiences, we have culled some survival skills and tips for educators to help create successful learning sessions. In general, an interactive small group format is most effective for learning about these topics. However, these materials may also be used in a didactic, large group setting. You may wish to review the *Resources for Trainers* section to prepare for delivering training sessions.

Acknowledgements

Funding:

Health Resources and Services Administration
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Partners:

Northwest AIDS Education & Training Center
University of Washington Center for Health Education & Research

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Special Thanks:

Ann Downer, EdD, UW CHER Executive Director, for starting it all.
Bernadette Lalonde, PhD, NW AETC Director, for support and advocacy.