



NC Department of Health and Human Services

NC Home Care Aide Curriculum

Module 21 – Palliative Care

July 2021

OBJECTIVES

- 1. Explain the premise of palliative care**
- 2. Differentiate between hospice and palliative care**
- 3. Describe who could benefit from palliative care**
- 4. Explain the home care aide's role in palliative care**

The Goal of Palliative Care

- **The goal of palliative care is to prevent and relieve suffering and to improve quality of life for people facing serious, complex illness**



Handout #1

The World Health Organization (WHO) Definition of Palliative Care



Hospice Or Non-Hospice Palliative Care?

- **Palliative care is different from hospice care, so those services should not be used interchangeably.**



Palliative Care Is More Than Pain Control

- **When a patient exhibits a physiological symptom such as pain, there are often psychological, social, and/or spiritual symptoms as well.**



Handout #2

Tips for the Nursing Assistant's Role in Pain Management



Nurse Aide As Part Of The Care Team

- **Team approach**
- **Adequate training**



Activity #1

Pain/Interventions Examples



SPIRITUAL AND/OR EMOTIONAL PAIN

- **Grief and grieving**



Handout #3

Elisabeth Kübler-Ross Five Stages of Grief



Activity #2

Examples of the 5 Stages of Grief





Listening skills and communication skills are of the utmost importance right now as a home care aide. Patients may not be able to verbalize their pain or discomfort. Therefore, the home care aide should watch for changes in behavior and report findings to the nurse supervisor. This goes for all patients, not just those receiving palliative care.