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Interstitial lung diseases

What kind of palliative support do health care professionals need in different hospital? A study about End of Life Care in acute hospital settings using PASKAL questionnaire

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Introduction: In Germany the majority of palliative patients spend time in hospital in the final year, and nearly 50% die in hospital. Due to the German system with different types of hospitals there are differences in the structural and process quality in End of Life Care. To measure and improve the quality in end of life care, the PASKAL questionnaire was developed.

Methods: After literature research, to define medical quality indicators in End of Life Care, a two round Delphi exercise was performed. Sixteen palliative care professionals identified indicators for structure-, process-, outcome quality and performance management. A questionnaire with 39 closed questions was created.

Results: The questionnaire was addressed to 4454 nurses and doctors in ten different hospitals. 614 (14%) questionnaire returned. The returned questionnaires represent 32% physicians and 68% nurses. Interestingly 90% of all interviewed persons in the survey defined end of life care in hospital as very important and part of their profession. Between the hospitals the structure varied like they did in process criteria. More than 70% of all interviewed expressed the need for training in communication.

Conclusion: The survey showed different quality and special need for support in the End of Life Care for hospitals. With the PASKAL questionnaire we will be able to identify the special need of this support.