

# Special features of Interprofessional Teamwork in Specialized Palliative Care

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# Background

- Interprofessional teamwork is highly recommended when providing palliative care (EAPC, 2020).
- When working collaboratively patients' and their families' care needs can be met holistically (Hui et al., 2018).
- Professionals should be competent interprofessionally and professionally (Witt Sherman et al. 2017).
- The description of special features that palliative care brings to interprofessional teamworking is scarce.

The aim of this study was to describe special features of interprofessional teamwork in specialized palliative care.

# Methods

The study consisted of **two datasets**

1. Integrative review data from patients and professionals' perspective (Kesonen et al., 2022).
  - Search was conducted in February 2021
  - Databases: Cochrane, PubMed, CINAHL, Scopus, and Web of Science
  - Fourteen articles published between 2007 and 2020 were included
  - Joanna Briggs Institutes Critical Appraisal Tools were used

# Methods

2. Interview data from patients' perspective (Kesonen, Salminen & Haavisto, 2022).

- Semi-structured individual interviews
- Totally 20 patients receiving palliative care from four different specialized PC wards in Finland

## **Analysis:**

Both data were analyzed separately with inductive content analysis and the results were combined with synthesis.

# Results

## Patients´ perspective

- patient-centered  
holistical pc
- participation depends  
on the patients´ health  
status
- communication within  
the team

## Professionals´ perspective

- a sense of community
- understanding the  
nature of palliative  
care
- professional  
contribution
- work management

# Conclusions

- The presence of death effects also on interprofessional teamworking.
- Interprofessional teamwork should be conducted openly and be transparent to patients and their families.
- Patients condition and number of different professionals should be acknowledged when planning palliative care.
- Professionals need support while constantly confronting death and dying → supervision practices are important.
- Both professional and continuing education are highlighted to sustain the interprofessional teamworking.

# Thank you!

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