**BPC1112 Foundations in palliative Care and introduction to the public health approach**

**Course description:**

This course will provide a background and understanding of the philosophy of palliative care, discussing its origins and the history of palliative care in Africa. The Public Health Approach to palliative care will be explored and critically analysed along with its appropriateness within sub-Saharan Africa. Issues and challenges for the integration of palliative care into existing health structures will be explored along with specific challenges within the African context. Individual roles within the multi-disciplinary palliative care team will be explored and the issue of team working within palliative care analysed.

**Course objectives:**

# To explore the philosophy of palliative care and analyse this within the African and low-resource context.

# To explore issues with regards to individual roles within the palliative care team, the application of the public health approach to palliative care and the integration of palliative care into practice.

**Learning objectives: (Expected Outcomes)**

Upon completion of this course the students will be able to:

* Discuss the philosophy and ethos of palliative care and its implementation in different settings;
* Evaluate and discuss the literature on palliative care and its application to their own setting;
* Demonstrate how palliative care can be implemented and integrated into practice in Africa;
* Distinguish between palliative care and curative care and discuss specific issues for palliative care in Africa;
* Identify and discuss the skills needed and the issues required in order to contextualise palliative care and provide care that is appropriate for the context within they are operating;
* Discuss and critically analyse the public health approach and its application to palliative care;
* Apply the 1986 WHO recommendations for palliative care in their own settings;
* Discuss and evaluate their role within the multi-disciplinary palliative care team;
* Identify the need for the involvement of other members of the multi-professional team, discuss their roles and make appropriate referrals.

**Course outline:**

* What is palliative care – defining the philosophy and ethos
* The need for palliative care in Africa
* Issues in African palliative care
* The public health approach and its relationship to the management of patients with palliative care needs
* WHO recommendations of 1986 for palliative care and application to African countries
* Defining context and contextualising palliative care
* Factors affecting provision and access to palliative care services
* Best practice within the delivery of palliative care in Africa
* Team and individual roles within the multi-disciplinary palliative care team

# Mode of Delivery

Straight lectures

Group discussions and tutorials in Problem Based Learning (PBL) format

Case studies

Mode of assessment:

Assessment of practice through course work and written assignments will constitute 60%

Final exam will be 40%

Reading list:

1. Gywther E, Merriman, A, Mpanga Sebuyira L and Schietinger H. (2006) A Clinical Guide to Supportive and Palliative Care for HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. Section 5: Care of Children and Adolescents, p357-438.
2. HAU (2006) Palliative Medicine: Pain And Symptom Control in the Cancer and/or AIDS Patient in Uganda and other African Countries. Fourth Edition: A book for health professionals
3. Twycross, Robert, Introducing Palliative care. Radcliffe Publishing; 2001
4. Wright M, Clark D, Hospice and Palliative Care in Africa OUP 2006
5. Palliative Care; an Oxford core text. Oxford University Press; 2002
6. Palliative care nursing; quality care to the end of life. Springer. 2005