**BPC1113 Palliative care in disease specific conditions**

**Course description:**

This course unit will provide a background and understanding of the major diseases, which will require palliative care. Throughout this course the epidemiology of cancer and HIV/AIDS will be examined, mainly within the African setting, although a world perspective will also be presented. The AIDS/cancer interface will be explored and the student will be able to discuss both the similar and different approaches to the cancer and AIDS patient. During the course an understanding of the two diseases and their economic and population effects will be developed, in conjunction with the affects of economy on service provision. In addition, the public health approach to palliative care provision will be examined. This course unit will provide an understanding of the pathophysiological processes in cancer and HIV/AIDS, and application of palliative care practices in managing other chronic and acute disease conditions and geriatric conditions requiring palliative care

**Course objectives:**

# To explore palliative care practices in the management of disease specific conditions such as Cancer, HIV/AIDS and other common chronic and acute disease conditions

# To provide students with competencies to be able to apply palliative care practices in managing a wide range of disease conditions.

# To explore epidemiological and patho physiological issues in the specified disease conditions.

# To outline key issues of palliative care in geriatric care

**Learning objectives: (Expected Outcomes)**

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

* Demonstrate an evidence based approach to palliative care in the management of disease specific conditions for adults and children;
* Explain and understand the epidemiology of cancer and HIV/AIDS and its relevance to their own practice;
* Apply in practice the differences and similarities in approach to caring for the cancer patient and the AIDS patient;
* Describe the disease pathophysiology in cancer and HIV/AIDS;
* Discuss the effects that cancer and AIDS have on the population and economy-both in their own setting and in other African countries;
* Discuss the affects of the economy (in own country) on service provision;
* Relate the roles of chemotherapy, radiotherapy and surgery in palliation of cancer patients;
* Discuss the distinctive features of palliative care in AIDS and critique the role of palliative care in the era of ART;
* Manage HIV/AIDS opportunistic infections and understanding of the principles of antiretroviral therapy;
* Discuss the role of palliative care practices in management of other chronic and acute disease conditions, in adults, children and the elderly.

**Course outline:**

* Introduction to Epidemiology - Cancer, HIV/AIDS and other chronic illnesses requiring palliative care in adults and children
* Economy and affects on service provision in Africa
* Overview of the Public Health Approach and its relationship to management of patient and family.
* AIDS/Cancer interface
* Approach to cancer versus AIDS patient
* Natural courses of the two diseases and effects on population and economy
* The disease process in cancer and AIDS (and the application of principles to other terminal illnesses)
* Physiology of ageing and of dying
* Cancer palliative care: path physiology and management
* HIV/AIDS palliative care (inc. distinctive features of HIV palliative care, management of opportunistic infections and principles of highly active antiretroviral therapy)
* Palliative care in chronic disease conditions (inc. chronic cardiac failure, renal failure, metabolic diseases, sickle cell anaemia), acute conditions and geriatric practice

# 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. Haslett C et al (eds) (1999), *Davidson’s Principles and Practices of Medicine*, Churchill Livingstone publishers, London, UK.
2. O’Brien, Welsh and Dunn, (2001), ‘Non –malignant conditions’, in *ABC of Palliative Care,* Fallon M and O’neill B (eds), BMJ publishing group, London, UK.
3. Faull, C., and Woof R. 2002, *Palliative Care: An Oxford Core Text*, Oxford University Press.
4. Bartlett JG., Gallant JE, 2006. *Medical Management of HIV Infection.* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
5. Gwyther L., Merriman A., Mpanga-Sebuyira L., and Schietinger H., 2006, A Clinical Guide to Supportive and Palliative Care for HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa, 2006 Edition, National Hospice and Palliative Care Organisation
6. 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