Making children’s hospices research-ready: A CRN West Midlands’ initiative
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Making children’s hospices research-ready: A CRN West Midlands’ initiative builds on the Payne Commission report in 2013 ‘Research in palliative care: can hospices afford not to be involved?’ and recognising the opportunity in the CRN: WM region to engender research in children’s hospices, engagement with the following hospices: Donna Louise Hospice, Acorns Hospice in Selly Oak and Hope House in Oswestry has started, in order to scope the needs for bringing research to this setting. Introductory and planning meetings with national key players were held and we also took part in initiatives eg Tweetfest to raise the profile of research in hospices, as well as gain advice and suggestions from key people nationally via Twitter. Next steps include expansion of GCP training, and providing paediatric communication and consent and PI masterclass courses to staff in children’s hospices, in order to give the staff the practical skills to run research studies in children’s hospices. CRN WM workforce development team will be involved in creating a bespoke training package for individual children’s hospices, tailored to their need to be research-ready. These initiatives firmly link the clinical research network with the hospice staff forging good working relationships and ensuring that the research skills are acquired in readiness for opening the first paediatric hospice study.

Building research capacity to address the public health need for palliative care
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Background The growing demand to address significant public health issues such as ageing populations, changing patterns of chronic diseases, individuals living longer with life-limiting conditions and so on increases the pressure on researchers to produce high quality, clinically relevant, innovative palliative care research so as to improve the quality of life for service users and carers. Aim All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care (AIIHPC) believes that one way to meet this demand is through research capacity building which is being taken forward via the Institute’s Palliative Care Research Network.

Method Capacity building is defined as a “process where individuals, groups, networks, organisation and the wider community are encouraged and facilitated in enhancing their knowledge and skills so as to increase their ability to perform innovative and high quality research” (Moyle and Seale, 2009). It is a major component of large national and international funding that seek to enhance and develop research expertise and leadership in specific health areas, for example, Irish Health Research Board, Public Health Agency (Northern Ireland), Horizon 2020, Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

Conclusion AllIHP’s Palliative Care Research Network is taking forward a multi-tiered approach to research capacity building ranging from awareness-raising of research, to providing more extensive support to those who want to progress elements of palliative care research, to providing tailored support and leadership opportunities for more advanced researchers.

How implementing the foundation modules for productive ward has improved efficiency, safety and morale within the inpatient unit
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Introduction The inpatient unit has introduced the three foundation modules from the Productive Ward programme, Patient Status at a Glance, The Well Organised Ward and Knowing How we