were reviews and 25% were other designs including mixed methods. Just over 70% were descriptive studies, and 10% were interventions or feasibility studies. Twelve RCTs were identified. 58 papers were concerned with palliative care for people with conditions other than cancer. Key areas of research were experiences or needs (23%), services and settings (23%), physical symptoms (22%) and psychological or psychosocial concerns (16%). Few papers focused on out-of-hours care, health economics or ehealth.

Conclusion The findings reveal a considerable increase in palliative care research over the last decade when compared with 44 papers identified in a similar Scottish review in 2006 and 151 papers identified in a review of Irish palliative care research in 2013. The new Scottish Research Forum for palliative and end-of-life care is now engaging with clinicians, service managers and policy-makers to facilitate understanding, use and dissemination of key implications for education, service innovation, policy and practice.

Abstracts

0-4 MARRIED JUST IN TIME: MEANING AND MAGIC OF WEDDINGS IN A TERTIARY CANCER CENTRE
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10.1136/bmjspcare-2017-hospice.4

Background Discovering what matters to people when they are dying may highlight a relationship that needs formalising in the last weeks of life. Hospices have become expert at high speed last-minute weddings. But surprisingly, many weddings also take place in a tertiary cancer hospital. Over a period of nine months the palliative care team supported six weddings in the hospital. These were expertly supported by the nursing, catering, facilities and chaplaincy team, and were a well-kept secret, apart from one which made it onto national news, as the patient was a well-known journalist.

Method A retrospective analysis of notes of patients who were married in the hospital, to discover who initiated the conversation about goals of care, about marriage, documentation about the relationship and the wedding plans, whether the patient left hospital after the ceremony and where possible, the meaning of the wedding to the couple or the bereaved widow or widower.

Findings and Discussion The hospital weddings were organised superbly, always spiritual, a mixture of joy and sadness, hard to bear but with no regrets for those who lived on. The ceremonies seemed to be for love, deepening connexion, rather than financial security. In fact one new wife inherited all her partner’s debts by marrying him! Half were new relationships, with previous marriages behind them, and half were partnerships of many years, that seemed important to formalise. Only one out of six patients left the hospital, and one patient died within minutes of the wedding which was shocking for all. The purchase of the rings was a particularly symbolic gesture. Wedding outfits varied from borrowed gowns from local bridal shops, to blue hospital scrubs! Jan, widow of Colin said, ‘I wanted to be a widow, not someone whose partner had died.’ Further qualitative research is planned with the bereaved partners.

0-5 EMPTY SHADOWS: A FILM MADE BY YOUNG PEOPLE TO DEMYSTIFY DEATH AND DYING AND TO PROMOTE HOSPICE WORK
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10.1136/bmjspcare-2017-hospice.5

An increased understanding of death within the younger generation is crucial to the demystifying of hospice work. A more balanced and healthier view of death, dying and bereavement has been encouraged through joint working between the hospice and a local grammar school. Fifteen Year 10 pupils visited the hospice as part of their Drama GCSE; they had a formal talk on hospice work, met with a bereaved person and asked questions regarding the family’s experience. A comprehensive tour of the building gave them insight into the work undertaken and of the environment. They developed a piece of live theatre called Empty Shadows which was then filmed. This film was created by the students and was filmed within the hospice itself. Pupils sensitively used the gardens, reception area, the in-patient unit and other hospice areas to act out the story. The 50 min film explores themes experienced by pupils whilst visiting the hospice: breaking bad news, how children understand and relate to the death of a loved one, creation of a memory box, writing letters to those who are being left behind, the importance of honesty and trust, the impact of bereavement on men, funerals, bereavement theories and the importance of support within schools and the work place. The film created from this innovative project will be used by the hospice’s Family Support Team to further their work with schools and colleges. They will use the resource to enable a more balanced and healthier view of death, dying and bereavement. The film is to be shown at the Worcestershire Palliative Care Conference in July 2017. Following the film, pupils and hospice staff will answer questions, encouraging and empowering professionals to work with young people to demystify death and dying and to promote hospice work.

0-6 SCHOOL IS THE LINK FOR CHILDREN FACING LOSS
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10.1136/bmjspcare-2017-hospice.6

Background As an adult and children’s hospice we support children (4–18 years) and their siblings through our bereavement and pre-bereavement services. We provide counselling and therapeutic groups for all types of bereavement, and counselling for children living with progressive ill-health. Supporting the Government’s agenda (Department for Education, 2016) to see all schools providing access to counselling, our unique schools link service was developed to support more children, and expanded to cover any significant loss, not just bereavement. Our paid coordinator supports 74 schools by