

Abstract Submission Template

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Abstract Information

Title: Dignity conserving care for older persons with palliative care needs - Implementing a Dignity Care Intervention

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Abstract

(250 word maximum)

Purpose: To test and evaluate a dignity care intervention (DCI) as well as an implementation intervention.

Methods: A mixed-method evaluation study. DCI is tested by nurses in three units within municipality healthcare context including home care and residential care in one municipality in Sweden. The implementation strategies provided are; DCI-workshops, kick-off meeting, internal facilitators, and continuous support. Questionnaires on dignity and quality of life from older persons and electronic patient records are used to collect quantitative data on implementation. Focus groups with the participating nurses focusing on factors associated with use, implementation and perceived impact of DCI are performed.

Preliminary results: Not all nurses that participated in the DCI-workshops used DCI with their patients. Those nurses that during the workshops expressed difficulties to speak with their patients about dignity and existential issues dropped out. The nurses who already before the study talked with their patients about dignity and dying expressed

that DCI could be a valuable tool. DCI could support to initiate these discussions with new patients in a structured way and give them a deeper contact. We can see differences in the three units in terms of organization of work and leadership from first line managers, which influence the nurses' use of DCI.

Conclusions: DCI can be useful as a tool in preserving dignity in palliative care for older persons. However, there is a need to adapt both the DCI and the implementation strategies.
