



# ADVANCED PRACTICE IN PALLIATIVE CARE (MDSC160)

## Palliative Medicine Training for Specialty Registrars & GP Registrars

(15 week course)

*(Available as non credit-bearing or academic credit bearing option)*



PALLIATIVE CARE INSTITUTE LIVERPOOL

LEARNING AND TEACHING DIVISION



## MDSC 160: ADVANCED PRACTICE IN PALLIATIVE CARE

### Palliative Medicine Training for Specialty Registrars and GP Registrars

This flexible course is designed for Specialty and other Doctors, Nurses and Allied Health Professionals seeking to develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of palliative care as part of their academic and career development. It is suitable for professionals who are aiming to balance study and full time work with home life and who wish to have a flexible approach to learning.

Advanced Practice in Palliative Care (MDSC 160) is accredited with the University of Liverpool and can be undertaken as an individual 'stand alone' course in support of your continuing professional development or as part of your academic study within a University of Liverpool MSc Programme.

The course also forms part of the Palliative Medicine Training for Speciality Registrars which provides the option to undertake as either a credit bearing masters level module (MDSC160) or as a non-credit bearing short course. There are also a number of benefits to undertaking this course for Specialty Registrars and GP Registrars.

#### ABOUT THE COURSE

The course provides you with the opportunity to examine the principles and practice of palliative care, including the nature and consequences of advanced life limiting illness and the issues relating to treatment decisions. As a participant on the course, you will be encouraged to reflect upon and critically analyse the complex issues involved in developing effective clinical practice within contemporary palliative care provision. Examples of the topics that you will engage with during the course include the influence of ethics on treatment decisions, clinical symptom management and the impact of communication on clinical practice. Your study will also include the opportunity to attend a fully supervised clinical placement within a palliative care setting, supported by a senior clinician within palliative care.

## HOW YOU WILL LEARN

You will study using a blended approach to learning, which involves interactive face to face workshops, e-learning activities and clinical placements. This combination of approaches provides the opportunity for you to reflect upon current practice, observe and discuss key topic areas with expert clinicians and evaluate specific palliative care approaches to clinical management. You will have the opportunity to gain new in depth knowledge within the field of palliative care and explore ways in which to develop and apply your knowledge within practice.

The course includes a 2 day Advanced Communication Skills Training (ACST) Workshop using the 'Connected' Model of training. This enables you to examine complex communication related topics using actor based, simulated patient scenarios. The Connected Model draws upon a participant led agenda, allowing you time to reflect upon your current expertise, critically appraise strategies for approaching complex interactions, practice newly developed skills with the use of role play and consider the implications of applying effective communication skills to your own clinical practice. You will receive positive, constructive feedback within an interactive, intensive but safe and supportive environment. The course is facilitated by recognised advanced communication skills trainers with a clinical background in healthcare.

A separate certificate will be issued for your attendance at the ACST Workshop.



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#### ANTICIPATED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course has five anticipated learning outcomes, which will enable you to:-

1. Demonstrate a critical understanding of evidence based palliative care.
2. Review and analyse critically current practice and research in pain and symptom control in patients with advanced life limiting illness.
3. Examine critically the sociological and psychological consequences of advanced life limiting illness.
4. Debate critically the ethical issues surrounding advanced life limiting illness.
5. Apply critically and evaluate strategies to elicit and respond to problems, concerns and feelings and to tailor complex information to the specific needs of patients with life limiting illness, their carers and families.

#### ASSESSMENT

- **Credit Bearing:**

If you are undertaking the course on a credit bearing basis, you will have the opportunity to achieve 20 academic credits at Level 7 (M Level) of the Higher Education Credit Framework. In order to achieve this you will need to successfully complete a summative assessment set against clearly identified learning outcomes. The summative assessment currently consists of three components, including 2 pieces of academic written work and a short presentation. Further information regarding the assessment process can be provided on enquiry or application.

- **Non-Credit Bearing:**

If you decide to undertake the non-credit bearing option for the course, you will need to complete a number of formative activities to fully participate and complete your study and to achieve a course certificate.

**It is strongly recommended that you discuss the activities and summative assessment requirements before registering to undertake the course.**

#### WHERE DOES IT LEAD?

On completion of this course you will receive either 20 credits at Level 7 of the [Higher Education Credit Framework](#) which can be used as evidence of continuing professional development within your field of practice or as part of your academic development, or a course certificate. The course compliments the MDSC 161: Advanced Practice in End of Life Care and can be used as part of a specific MSc Programme within the University of Liverpool (credit bearing option only). For further information on the MSc Programme please contact Jan Howard, Learning and Teaching Lead (Acting) on 0151 794 8827 or [jmhow@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:jmhow@liverpool.ac.uk).

#### COURSE FEE

For further information about this course including course fees and how to register please contact either Jan Howard on 0151 794 8827 or email [jmhow@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:jmhow@liverpool.ac.uk), or Karen Ross via email [Karen.ross2@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:Karen.ross2@liverpool.ac.uk). You can also click on the '[course enquiry](#)' link to request further information.



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#### COURSE LEADERS

Advanced Practice in Palliative Care is jointly facilitated by Lecturers and Clinicians with a clinical background in palliative care. The Facilitators will be involved in teaching within the interactive workshops and the online activities and will provide support throughout the duration of the course. Below you will find the core teaching team, however there are a number of Lecturers and Clinicians regularly involved in providing teaching and clinical support.



Mrs. Jan Howard  
Lecturer  
FHEA, PGCLTCP, BSc (Hons), DIP DN, RGN



Dr Alison Coackley  
MBChB  
Consultant in Palliative Medicine  
The Clatterbridge Centre NHS Foundation Trust



Dr Helen Bonwick  
MBChB  
Associate Specialist in Palliative Medicine  
Marie Curie Hospice, Liverpool

Please Note: Topic areas identified for inclusion within the curriculum are examples of the core components of the module and specific sessions may be subject to change to reflect contemporary issues within palliative care