

e-ELCA: Priorities for the care of the dying person

This document introduces the recommended sessions and e-ELCA learning paths designed to support the development of training related to care in the last days and hours of life.



Introduction

The e-ELCA eLearning programme focuses on the care patients and families need during the last year of life and is supported by Health Education England (HEE) and the Association for Palliative Medicine (APM).

e-ELCA is designed for use by health and social care staff, managers and trainers to help achieve learning objectives at a flexible pace and style that suits the intended learner. It can be used as a standalone resource, but greater benefits are achieved when included as part of blended learning.

eELCA offers over **170 interactive sessions** which are grouped into nine modules:

- Advance care planning
- Assessment
- Communications skills
- Symptom management
- Social care
- Bereavement
- Spirituality
- Integrating learning
- Specialist content

A small number of sessions have been identified as recommended core and additional learning for a range of staff groups, which focus specifically on care in the last few days and hours of life and will be useful to those wanting to include e-ELCA within an existing curriculum or as local mandatory training.

Selected e-ELCA sessions have been mapped against the nine high level learning objectives in '[One Chance to Get it Right](#)'.

These sessions are available as **Priorities for the care of the dying person learning** paths for specific staff groups.

This document identifies the recommended sessions and provides links to the eELCA: Priorities for the care of the dying person learning paths.



Fig.1 The 5 priorities for care of the dying person

Recommended core and additional e-ELCA sessions

The table below shows the recommended core (C) and additional (A) sessions for each staff group which focus specifically on care in the last few days and hours of life and will be useful to those wanting to include e-ELCA within an existing curriculum or as local mandatory training.

	Doctors	Nurses	AHPs	Social care managers	Social care workers	Healthcare managers	Healthcare administrators
Relationship between palliative care and end of life care			A				A
Benefits and risks of ACP to patients, families, and staff		C	C	C	C	C	A
Mental Capacity Act in practice	C	A		A			
Assessment of spiritual well-being	A	C	C	A	A		
Assessing those with fluctuating mental capacity	A	A		A	A		
Assessment of dying phase and after death care		C	C	A	A	C	C
Communication skills for admin staff, volunteers, and other non-clinical workers						C	C
Skills which facilitate good communication		A		C	C	A	
"Am I dying?" "How long have I got" - handling challenging questions	A	C	C	C	C		
"What will it be like?" - talking about the dying process	C	A	A	C	C		
Discussing 'do not attempt CPR' decisions	C			A			
Discussing hydration	C	C	A				
Dealing with challenging relatives	A	A	A			C	C
Challenging communication with colleagues	A	A	A			A	
Recognising the last months and days of life and verifying death	C						
Symptom management for the dying adult	C	C					
Managing agitation and restlessness in the dying phase	A	C		A	A		
Managing distress during the dying phase	A	A	A	C	C		
Scenario: terminal agitation - patient in care home		A		A			
Scenario: patient dying in acute hospital: optimising situation	C	A				A	
Treatment and care towards the end of life: good practice	C	A					
Care after Death I - Introduction to care after death	A	C				C	
A unified DNACPR policy		C	A			A	
Using the NHS Continuing Healthcare Fast Track Pathway Tool		A	A			A	
End of life care in care homes and domiciliary care settings				A	A		
Talking about death and dying		A	C			C	C
Practical support after a bereavement	A	A				A	

Mapped e-ELCA sessions

The tables below show eELCA sessions mapped to each of the nine high-level learning objectives set out in 'One Chance to Get it Right'.

1. Describe how to assess and act upon the needs of a dying person: physical, psychological, emotional, social, spiritual, cultural, religious.

e-ELCA 02: Assessment

Introduction to the principles of assessment in end-of-life care

Assessment of physical symptoms

Assessment of psychological well-being

Assessment of social and occupational well-being

Assessment of spiritual well-being

Assessing urgent situations with limited information

2. Explain how to address the dying person's comfort, specifically in relation to food, fluids and symptoms.

e-ELCA 03: Communication skills

Discussing hydration

e-ELCA 04: Symptom management

General approach to assessment of symptoms

Influence of transition points and crises on decision-making in symptom management

Assessment of pain

Principles of pain management

Drug Management of pain – core knowledge

Management of nausea and vomiting

Managing excessive respiratory secretions

Managing agitation and restlessness in the dying phase

Managing distress during the dying phase

Use of syringe drivers

Symptom management complicated by coexisting conditions

e-ELCA 05: Integrated learning

Scenario: terminal agitation - patient in a care home

Scenario: patient dying in acute hospitals: optimising situation

Mapped e-ELCA sessions (cont.)

3. Discuss how to approach and implement individualised care planning including shared decision-making.

e-ELCA 01: Advance care planning

Benefits and risks of ACP to patients, families and staff

Advance Decision to Refuse Treatment: principles

e-ELCA 02: Assessment

Documentation, communication and coordination

e-ELCA 04: Symptom management

Agreeing a plan of management and care

Communicating the plan of management and care

Individual preferences and cultural influences on symptom management

e-ELCA 06: Social care

Support and care planning at end of life

End-of-life care in care homes and domiciliary care settings

4. Demonstrate how to communicate about dying with the person, and those who are important to them.

e-ELCA 01: Advance care planning

How to handle patients' questions and concerns

How to negotiate decisions which may be difficult to implement

e-ELCA 03: Communication skills

Skills which facilitate good communication

Am I dying? How long have I got?- handling challenging questions

What will it be like? - talking about the dying process

Dealing with challenging relatives

5. Describe how to assess and act upon the needs of the dying person's family and those important to the person.

e-ELCA 02: Assessment

Carer assessment and support

Identifying the patient's goals and priorities

e-ELCA 05: Integrated learning

Care after death 1 – Introduction to care after death

Care after death II – providing personal care after death

Care after death II – providing personal care after death

e-ELCA 08: Spiritual care

Spiritual resources and quality of life

Mapped e-ELCA sessions (cont.)

6. Describe the importance of and act upon maintaining own and team resilience through reflective practice and clinical supervision.

e-ELCA 01: Advance care planning

Cultural and spiritual considerations in ACP

Developing your practice, clinical supervision, further reading

e-ELCA 03: Communication skills

Communication skills for administrative staff, volunteers and other non-clinical workers

Self-awareness in communication

Challenging communication with colleagues

e-ELCA 04: Symptom management

Recognising your own limitations in symptom management

e-ELCA 05: Integrated learning

When the dying process is protracted or unexpectedly fast

e-ELCA 08: Spiritual care

Spirituality and the multidisciplinary team

7. Demonstrate understanding of how Mental Capacity Act should be applied when the dying person lacks capacity.

e-ELCA 01: Advance care planning

Mental Capacity Act: aims and principles

Mental Capacity Act in practice

Approaching ACP when capacity is uncertain, fluctuating or likely to deteriorate

e-ELCA 02: Assessment

Assessing those with fluctuating mental capacity

e-ELCA 04: Symptom management

Symptom management in people with learning difficulties or mental health problems

e-ELCA 05: Integrated learning

Initiating conversations about EoLC: dementia

8. Demonstrate understanding of the impact of loss and grief, including how to support individuals who are bereaved.

e-ELCA 07: Bereavement care

Talking about death and dying

Assessment of carers' needs

Practical support after a bereavement

Sudden death and bereavement

Emotional support and signposting

Children and bereavement

Mapped e-ELCA sessions (cont.)

9. Describe how to recognise that dying may be imminent, assess reversibility, make appropriate decisions and plans for review, and communicate uncertainty.

e-ELCA 02: Assessment

Assessment of dying phase and after-death

e-ELCA 03: Communication skills

Request for organ and tissue donation

Request for euthanasia

Discussing 'do not attempt CPR' decisions

e-ELCA 04: Symptom management

Recognising the dying phase, last days of life and verifying death

Assessment and management of agitation

e-ELCA 05: Integrated learning

Treatment and care towards the end of life: good practice decision making

Other useful sessions

The tables below show provide extra content to support those designing training programmes to meet the learning objectives.

e-ELCA 02: Assessment

Assessment of physical function

e-ELCA 03: Communication skills

Context of assessment cultural and language issues

Communicating with non-English speaking patients

Communicating with people with speech and hearing difficulties

'How dare you do this to me' – managing anger

'I don't believe you, I'm not ready to die' managing denial

'How dare you do this to me' – managing anger

'Why me?' discussing spiritual distress

'I don't believe you, I'm not ready to die' managing denial

'Why me?' discussing spiritual distress

e-ELCA 05: Integrated learning

Case study: end stage cardiac disease

Case study: motor neurone disease

Case study: COPD

Case study: end stage renal disease

Case study: dementia

Sudden unexpected death

Dying as a prisoner

End-of-life care for people experiencing homelessness

Dying in intensive care unit

A Unified DNACPR policy

Using the NHS Continuing Healthcare Fast Track Pathway Tool

Case study: end stage cardiac disease

Case study: motor neurone disease

Case study: COPD

Case study: end stage renal disease

Case study: dementia

e-ELCA 06: Social care

Palliative care social work

Hospital social work

DEMENTIA: DEM 01

Palliative care and dementia

SHARED DECISION MAKING: SDM 01

Introduction to shared decision making

Priorities for the care of the dying person learning paths: links

Learning path title	Overview	Link
Priorities for care of the dying person: training needs analysis	This learning path contains an e-learning session which helps to identify the training needs of staff and how e-ELCA can be used to support education and training.	https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Component/Details/404638
Priorities for care of the dying person: learning path for doctors	This learning path identifies core and additional recommended e-learning sessions for doctors to enhance the quality of care for patients in the last days of life and support for their families. The sessions that the individual doctor needs to complete depends on how competent they are already with this area of practice.	https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Component/Details/717451
Priorities for care of the dying person: learning path for nurses	This learning path identifies core and additional recommended e-learning sessions for nurses to enhance the quality of care for patients in the last days of life and support for their families. We have defined sessions which contain core content to support what nurses need to know and do to provide good care for people who are dying.	https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Component/Details/717762
Priorities for care of the dying person: learning path for allied health professionals	This learning path identifies core and additional recommended e-learning sessions for allied health professionals to enhance the quality of care for patients in the last days of life and support for their families. We have defined sessions which contain core content to support what AHPs need to know and do to provide good care for people who are dying.	https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Component/Details/717885
Priorities for care of the dying person: learning path for social care managers	This learning path identifies core and additional recommended e-learning sessions for managers in social care to enhance the quality of care for patients in the last days of life and support for their families. We have defined sessions which contain core content to support what managers in social care need to know and do to provide good care for people who are dying.	https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Component/Details/717888
Priorities for care of the dying person: learning path for social care workers	This learning path identifies core and additional recommended e-learning sessions for social care workers to enhance the quality of care for patients in the last days of life and support for their families. We have defined sessions which contain core content to support what social care workers need to know and do to provide good care for people who are dying.	https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Component/Details/719738
Priorities for care of the dying person: learning path for healthcare managers	This learning path identifies core and additional recommended e-learning sessions for healthcare managers to enhance the quality of care for patients in the last days of life and support for their families. We have defined sessions which contain core content to support what healthcare managers need to know and do to provide good care for people who are dying.	https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Component/Details/719742
Priorities for care of the dying person: learning path for healthcare administrators	This learning path identifies core and additional recommended e-learning sessions for healthcare administrators to enhance the quality of care for patients in the last days of life and support for their families. We have defined sessions which contain core content to support what healthcare administrators need to know and do to provide good care for people who are dying.	https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Component/Details/717897

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