Developing emotionally intuitive
competency-based
palliative care skills

Canadian
Home Care
Association

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What is eiCOMPASS?

The Canadian Home Care Association (CHCA) is bringing together organizations providing home-based palliative care across Canada to improve nurses' and personal care workers' skills and provide emotionally intuitive care. The CHCA is building awareness of the Canadian Interdisciplinary Palliative Care Competency Framework and developing Emotional Intelligence training and tools to reinforce skills. Through our SPRINT™ Implementation Collaborative, we are supporting teams from across Canada to adopt and practice these skills. This work is supported by a three-year Health Canada Health Care Policy Contribution Program grant.

What is the Canadian Interdisciplinary Palliative Care Competency Framework?

The Canadian Partnership Against Cancer and Health Canada, working with an extensive network of palliative care experts and stakeholders, have developed the Canadian Interdisciplinary Palliative Care Competency Framework. This document establishes a minimum national standard for palliative care in Canada, and it seeks to direct consistent implementation and measurement of palliative care competencies in practice. It serves as a guiding document for jurisdictions that lack an explicit set of palliative care competencies, and as high-level guidance for provinces that have built their own competency frameworks.

How does the Competency Framework benefit providers of home-based palliative care?

The Competency Framework describes essential skills and knowledge for high-quality home-based palliative care. Serving as a blueprint, it allows organizations to develop training, hire skilled professionals, and provide outstanding interdisciplinary palliative care. This valuable tool not only pinpoints service gaps but also aids in identifying areas for enhancement. By leveraging the Competency Framework, organizations can deliver effective and comprehensive services to support patients and families in their own homes.

Why is it essential to develop providers' palliative care skills?

Healthcare providers delivering home-based palliative care, must possess palliative care skills to provide comprehensive, compassionate, and effective care to patients with life-limiting illnesses and their families. These skills are essential for managing symptoms, addressing emotional, psychological, social, and spiritual needs, and improving the quality of life for patients and their loved ones. These skills enable all providers to work effectively within a multidisciplinary team, including physicians, nurses, personal support workers, social workers, pharmacists, and spiritual care providers, to deliver integrated, holistic care.

How is the eiCOMPASS Project unique?

Emotions greatly influence those with advanced illnesses, affecting well-being and distress. Palliative care professionals use emotional intelligence to address complex situations and prioritize patient and caregiver needs. The eiCOMPASS Project is developing online microlearning modules on essential emotional intelligence skills for high-quality home-based palliative care, supporting the Competency Framework domains and enabling healthcare providers to effectively practice daily.

What is included in the eiCOMPASS Project?

The eiCOMPASS Project will deliver a wealth of invaluable knowledge products for organizations providing home-based palliative care. These include:
- Engaging information briefs and expert testimonials, highlighting the Competency Framework's content and significance
- Lively conversations with healthcare providers, caregivers, and researchers, delving into services and support for those diagnosed with life-limiting illnesses and their families
- National campaigns raising awareness on key skills for high-quality palliative care.
- The innovative SPRINT Implementation Collaborative, empowering organizations to test and adopt the Competency Framework, EI microlearning, and other cutting-edge tools
- Comprehensive toolkits designed to assist organizations in leveraging the Competency Framework and amplifying their frontline providers' palliative care expertise

When will the eiCOMPASS Project elements be available?

The eiCOMPASS, a 31-month initiative from September 2022 to March 2025, unfolds in three phases:
- **Phase 1:** Competency Framework Awareness - materials on the eiCOMPASS page starting November 2022
- **Phase 2:** SPRINT Implementation Collaborative - call for interest in June 2023, team selection and on-boarding by September 2022, completion by June 2024
- **Phase 3:** EI resources and tools launch - final microlearning modules and tools accessible via the CHCA Learning Centre from September 2024

How can my organizations get involved?

Get involved in the eiCOMPASS Project by:
- Visiting the eiCOMPASS website for valuable information
- Reviewing the Canadian Interdisciplinary Palliative Care Competency Framework
- Participating in national campaigns on palliative care skills for healthcare providers
- Engaging in the SPRINT Implementation Collaborative via the Call for Interest
- Attending virtual webinars and information sessions on palliative care competencies
- Utilizing EI microlearning modules on the CHCA Learning Centre for staff training

Who is the Canadian Home Care Association?

The Canadian Home Care Association (CHCA) is a national non-profit focused on strengthening integrated community-based care. Representing public and private organizations in the home and community care sector, CHCA partners with members to tackle pan-Canadian priorities through advocacy, awareness, innovation, and knowledge exchange, striving for a seamless, accessible, accountable, evidence-informed, and sustainable patient- and family-centered care system.

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