

# Paramedic - Evidence Based Medicine (P-EBP) Program

## Paramedic CAT (Critically Appraised Topic) Worksheet

**Title:** Family Satisfaction with End-of-Life Program

**Report By:** Randi Sheppard

**2<sup>nd</sup> Party Appraiser:** Jen Greene

**Clinical Scenario:** Paramedics arrive on scene of a 70-year-old female, palliative care patient, enrolled in the end-of-life program. The patient had a written and signed letter stating their wishes to die in the comfort of their own home instead of in the hospital. The patient is now incoherent and unable to continue to stress her desired place of dying. The family would like to honor their mother's wishes but find it too painful to watch her die in the house they grew up in, as it will create sad memories for them. They instruct paramedics to bring her to the hospital so that she can receive palliative care treatment under the observation of a physician and nurses.

**PICO (Population – Intervention – Comparison – Outcome) Question:**

In pre-hospital palliative care patients, how can transporting these patients to the hospital vs staying at home, satisfy patient and family needs and/or wants?

**Search Strategy:**

(patient or family satisfaction) and (end of life care or palliative care) and (home or hospital)

**Search Outcome:** 359720 results



# Paramedic - Evidence Based Medicine (P-EBP) Program

## Relevant Papers:

AUTHOR, DATE	POPULATION: SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS	DESIGN (LOE)	OUTCOMES	RESULTS	STRENGTHS/ WEAKNESSES
Ringdal G.I. 2001/2002	-112 family members of patients participating in a comprehensive palliative care program (intervention group)  -68 family members of patients participating in a conventional care program (control group)	A Level 1 randomized prospective study with a control group.	Family satisfaction of care in the intervention and the control groups	11/18 negative differences in mean scores were statistically significant at the 0.05p level. Reported lowest scores had the highest satisfaction with the end-of-life program vs the conventional method	The sample size was good but soon depleted after patients died. Family members were willing to participate in the study when the patients were alive, but after the patients died; many family members did not respond or complete the questionnaires.
Nadin, S. 2017	Phase 1: 118 family members of LTC patients enrolled in the end-of-life program  Phase 2: 134 family members of LTC patients enrolled in the end-of-life	Prospective observational, comprehensive case study with a control group	Family satisfaction with end-of-life-care program	Phase 3: M = 4.67 (Item range potentials were 1-5 for the importance scale and 1-5 for satisfaction scale). 90% of respondents reported it as either "very" or "extremely" important.	The research was well organized and had a good outcome with family satisfaction. It filled a gap in quality improvement tools to support developing quality



# Paramedic - Evidence Based Medicine (P-EBP) Program

	program			<p>Cronbach's alpha coefficient for each of the scales was well above the <math>\geq .80</math> criterion</p> <p><math>p = .986</math></p> <p>It is concluded that the overall satisfaction scales as well as the five subscales in the revised questionnaire are internally consistent.</p>	<p>patient care in long term care homes.</p> <p>Staff appear not to be having end-of-life conversations with family members regardless of the patient's palliative performance scale rating. This indicates the need for quality improvement because early discussion of palliative care is best practice in providing EOLC to elderly people with serious illness</p>
--	---------	--	--	--	--

**Comments:** The first study involved family involvement solely of palliative care in cancer patients. In contrast, the second study involved multiple diseases but focused on patients in long term care facilities.



# Paramedic - Evidence Based Medicine (P-EBP) Program

**Consider:** *Why would you NOT change practice, based on these articles?*

No need to change practice based on these articles as they are centered around family satisfaction of the treatment and care given to their family members who are at the end-of-life. There is no significance or association directed to the paramedic practice.

**Clinical Bottom Line:** Family members should be informed of the care rendered to their loved ones at the end of their life.

## References:

Ringdal, G. I., Jordhøy, M. S., & Kaasa, S. (2002, August 14). Family Satisfaction with End-of-Life Care for Cancer Patients in a Cluster Randomized Trial. Retrieved from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0885392402004177>

Nadin, S., Miandad, M. A., Kelley, M. L., Marcella, J., & Heyland, D. K. (2017). Measuring Family Members' Satisfaction with End-of-Life Care in Long-Term Care: Adaptation of the CANHELP Lite Questionnaire. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5494554/>



*P-EBP Program*  
CAT Worksheet 2015

