Online Courses for Nurse Educators and Nurses on End-of-Life Care Across the Life Span

End-of-life toolkit for nursing school faculty and practicing nurses

**SUMMARY**

While a growing number of nursing education programs include palliative care concepts in the basic nursing curriculum, continued work is needed to fully incorporate this content into nursing education. To help meet this need, the University of Washington School of Nursing and the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing developed two electronic toolkits: one for nurse educators and one for self-study by practicing nurses.

Known as TNEEL (Toolkit for Nurturing Excellence at the End-of-Life Transition), the toolkits are interactive learning tools available on the Internet and on CD-ROM. TNEEL-NE (for Nurse Educators) is available at www.tneel.uic.edu/tneel.asp, and TNEEL-SS (for Self-Study) is available at www.tneel.uic.edu/tneel-ss.

**Key Results**

The grantees:

- Created and built two versions of the toolkit. In order to meet the needs of nurse educators across the nation, the grantees:
  - Conducted a survey of all ADN (Associate Degree in Nursing) and BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) programs to assess the technological capabilities within their schools.
  - Developed a content plan to address each of the AACN (American Association for the Colleges of Nursing) competencies.
- Pilot-tested each version with members of its target audience and made revisions. Testing included a validity review by investigators and consultants as well as ease of use and compatibility with available technology.
• Distributed:
  — 11,419 TNEEL-NE CDs to organizations or individuals.
  — 7,500 CDs at no cost, covered by the money from grant ID# 035106; more than 1,600 of them to End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) trainers and training session attendees.
  — 3,919 CDs for the cost of shipping and handling.

• Established a process to ensure adoption and timely updates of TNEEL content in both versions until 2010

TNEEL content is presented in six modules (Comfort, Connections, Ethics & Law, Well-Being, Grief and Impact) and addresses AACN's "Competencies Necessary for Nurses to Provide High-Quality Care to Patients and Families During the Transition at the End of Life." The toolkit includes myths and definitions, case studies, pre- and post-assessment testing, audiovisual materials and more.

**Communications**

The grantees produced TNEEL-NE on 15,000 CDs and TNEEL-SS on a Web site as two key multimedia publications. In addition to publishing articles in peer-reviewed journals (see the Bibliography), they distributed 30,000 brochures and 15,000 postcards to introduce the toolkits to institutional and organizational leaders.

**Funding**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) funded this project with two grants totaling $1,583,507 between May 1999 and July 2007.

Additional funders include:

• Purdue Pharma ($20,000)

• Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources Services Administration, Division of Nursing

• National Institutes of Health's Small Business Innovation Research program
BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Current as of date of the report; as provided by the grantee organization; not verified by RWJF; items not available from RWJF.)

Articles


**Audio-Visuals and Computer Software**

Wilkie DJ, Brown MA, Corless I, Farber S, Judge K and Shannon S. *Toolkit for Nurturing Excellence at the End-of-Life Transition for Self Study (TNEEL-SS)*. Provides information to learner regarding course content and required computer components to take the online course, entry to student registration, secure entry for CE provider registration and activation of the course, secure entry for the learner to log into the specific course components for which the learner registered and paid. 2003.


**Grantee Websites**

[www.tneel.uic.edu](http://www.tneel.uic.edu). Website created to provide technology for patient-centered care.

[www.tneel.uic.edu/tneel.asp](http://www.tneel.uic.edu/tneel.asp). Home page for TNEEL project.

[www.tneel.uic.edu/tneel-ss](http://www.tneel.uic.edu/tneel-ss). This page is the portal for the TNEEL self-study version.