

26778 - Palliative Care

Syllabus Information

Academic year: 2024/25

Subject: 26778 - Palliative Care

Faculty / School: 104 - Facultad de Medicina

Degree: 304 - Degree in Medicine

ECTS: 4.0

Year: 5

Semester: First semester

Subject type: Optional

Module:

1. General information

The purpose of the subject is to provide students with the specific knowledge that will enable them to offer terminally ill patients and their families a comprehensive, continuous and individualized care, in physical, emotional, social and spiritual aspects, promoting autonomy and respecting the dignity of the patient.

It will deepen the knowledge of diseases, symptoms and therapeutic options as well as the assessment of patients' problems at the end of life, including the global suffering and understanding of the bereavement process. It teaches that it is essential to work as a team to provide an adequate response to all the needs generated by terminal illness.

"These approaches and objectives are aligned with the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations Agenda 2030 (<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/es/>), so that the acquisition of the learning results of the subject provides training and competence to contribute in some way to their achievement."

Goal 3: Health and Wellness.

2. Learning results

- Demonstrate that an active and positive attitude has been consolidated in the assessment and treatment of incurable patients, internalizing that their assistance involves medical science and the complete humanity of the professional.
- To be able to perform a complete and multidimensional assessment of an advanced or terminal disease situation in order to draw a care plan.
- To be able to assess pain and correctly prescribe opioids and other adjuvant medications.
- To be able to handle drugs for adequate symptom control.
- To know what types of questions and problems can be raised in conversations with patients and family members about advanced or terminal illness.
- To know How to work in a team and how to make decisions in complex and difficult situations.

3. Syllabus

Topic 1- History and development of palliative care. Principle of palliative medicine. General principles of symptom control and evaluation.

Topic 2- Basic concepts about pain and its assessment.

Topic 3- Treatment of pain. Morphine and alternative opioids. Adjuvant medication. Difficult pain strategy.

Topic 4- General and digestive symptoms.

Topic 5- Respiratory and neurological symptoms. Emergencies.

Topic 6- Palliative care in advanced stages of organ failure.

Topic 7- Ethical aspects of end-of-life care. Euthanasia and palliative care.

Topic 8- Management of agony. Situation of the last hours or days. Palliative sedation.

4. Academic activities

Face-to-face activities:

- Theoretical classes: 12 hours.
- Practical seminars to discuss cases in small groups. Attendance is mandatory. 16h

Non-face-to-face activities:

- Two works will be carried out: 14 h.
 - Original commentary of 500-600 words (2 single-spaced printed pages) of a chapter from the book "Watch

with Me", by Cicely Saunders. Spanish translation of 2011.

- Free commentary on the film: " Wit" by Mikel Nichols 2011.
- The clinical cases to be discussed in the seminars should be previously prepared at home.

5. Assessment system

Attendance to the theoretical classes is optional and attendance to the seminars is mandatory.

Unjustified non-attendance at seminars will result in the loss of points in the final grade.

The exam will consist of 30 multiple choice test questions (no negative points for wrong answers), with only one valid answer , and a clinical case to be developed according to a series of established questions. The time of the test will be 60 minutes. In the grade of the written test, the weight of the test will be 60% and the clinical case 40%.

In the final grade the written test will have a value of **60%** of the total, the two papers **20%** and the presentation of clinical cases in the seminar **20%**.

The exam will have the same characteristics in both exam sessions. The work completed will be saved for the second call.

6. Sustainable Development Goals

3 - Good Health & Well-Being