

The Role of Speech-Language Pathologists in Palliative Care: Exploring the Issues and Reaching Consensus

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Background

The SLP role in palliative and end-of-life (EOL) care is not well defined for SLPs or well understood outside the profession. The research evidence base is limited.

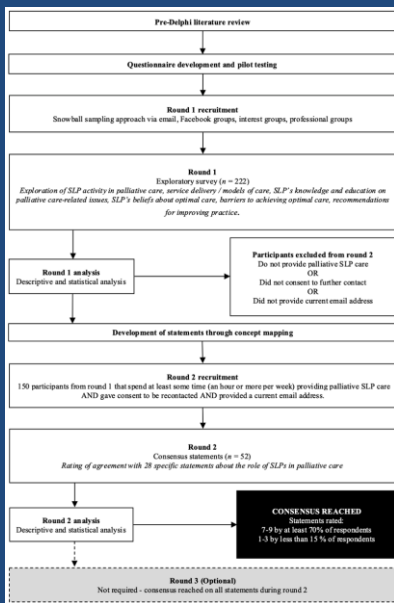
Aims

- Identify and describe current SLP services.
- Determine how SLPs perceived best quality service compares with current practices.
- Identify barriers and strategies for improvement.
- Define key aspects of the SLP role and practice in palliative care, from the perspective of practicing SLPs.

Results

Round 1: 222 participants described SLP practice in palliative care, barriers to best practice and strategies for improvement.

eDelphi Methodology



Round 2: 52 respondents reached consensus on 28 practice statements in 6 categories.

Conclusion

SLPs provide palliative and EOL care for people with various of clinical conditions through a range of service delivery models. Consensus statements provide an initial agreed definition of the SLP role in palliative care and how this can be supported. They can be a used as a tool for service planning, benchmarking and future research.

For a copy of the consensus statements contact Katherine Kelly:
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