

#EDUCATING
for Excellence

PALLIATIVE & END OF LIFE CARE EDUCATION PROGRAMME



January to
March 2026

stfrancis.org.uk



The Hospice
of st francis

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WELCOME

to our Palliative and End of Life Care (EOLC) Education Brochure for Jan - Mar 2026



The aim of this brochure is to detail palliative and end of life care education available during Jan to Mar 2026.

It is not exhaustive and there are likely to be additional sessions which will be advertised on our website, via social media and promotional emails to our subscribers.

The programme is open to all health and social care professionals who provide palliative and/or end of life care to patients in any setting. We offer a structured programme made up of short sessions, half days and full study days.

The training is based on the End of Life Care Core Skills Education and Training Framework (2017), Ambitions for Palliative and End of Life Care (2021), NICE Guidelines - Care of dying adults in the last days of life (2015) and the End of Life Care Strategy (2008).

The training also encompasses the five core competencies that are outlined in the National Core Competencies for End of Life Care (2009) which were developed to support the End of Life Strategy. These are:

- The Overarching Principles of Palliative and End of Life Care
- Communication Skills
- Assessment and Care Planning
- Symptom Management, Comfort and Well-being
- Advance Care Planning

We are constantly reviewing the training we should be offering – please contact us if there are sessions you would like to see or if you'd like further details of what might be coming up.

Please contact the Education team via: education@stfrancis.org.uk and we can discuss this with you.

To help meet the specific Palliative and End of Life Care needs of your organisation we also offer bespoke training.

Please contact us if you would like to learn more

[Join our Education and Learning Mailing List](#)

See our [website](#) for full details about each event

See our events on the Herts and West Essex Training Hub

<https://www.hwetraininghub.org.uk/>

Follow us on [Facebook](#) for News, Events, Palliative Care and Rehabilitation Insights.

MEND THE GAP - PALLIATIVE CARE EDUCATION



E-LEARNING

Some staff may wish to pursue their own updates through e-learning. Some recognised sites are listed below.



Current Learning in Palliative Care. (CLiP)

CLiP is a free, flexible learning series in palliative care supplied in partnership between St Oswald's Hospice and Hospice UK. It is a case-based programme of self-learning workshops that take about 15 mins - ideal for busy healthcare professionals.

<https://www.stoswaldsuk.org/how-we-help/we-educate/education/resources/what-is-clip/clip-adults-worksheets/>

Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

The Resuscitation Council (UK) website takes you through the issues around Do Not Attempt CPR and the importance for the patient and yourself as a professional, including the excellent guidance produced with the British Medical Council and the Royal College of Nursing. It also highlights the use of the ReSPECT process to document individual recommendations for patients.

<https://www.resus.org.uk/dnacpr/>

Hospice UK and Dying Matters

Hospice UK's Dying Matters campaign is working to create an open culture in which everyone is comfortable talking about death, dying and grief. The website hosts many useful resources including leaflets, information sheets and short films.

<https://www.hospiceuk.org/our-campaigns/dying-matters>

End of Life Care for All (E-elca)

A range of modules that are nationally recognised and very useful. Some modules are open to everyone - to access the whole library of online materials you will need to register.

<https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/end-of-life-care/>

Marie Curie

The Palliative Care Knowledge Zone offers expert information and support to staff to enable them to deliver the best possible care for people living with a terminal illness.

<https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/professionals>

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Clinical Knowledge Summaries

The NICE CKS service provides primary care practitioners with a readily accessible summary of the current evidence base and practical guidance on best practice.

<http://cks.nice.org.uk>

BOOKING & ATTENDANCE

Attendance at any of the education sessions detailed in this brochure is open to all staff, irrespective of their employer/place of work. Booking of places by individuals onto any of the courses is dependent on the individual having their team leader/manager's agreement.

Book on via [Accessplanit](#) or via The Hospice of St Francis [website](#)

Please note there may be a booking fee or small charge for selected courses.

Our short courses are free to HoSF staff and volunteers.

When it comes to course payment on the booking form, step through to the end of the process and the system will apply 100% discount to the booking fee.

There is a cost implication for our long courses and so we do ask staff to seek funding.

Please contact us if you have any queries at education@stfrancis.org.uk

NOTE: Please ensure you have permission from your line manager before booking – thank you!



**#EDUCATING
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Thursday

8

January

9.30am-4pm

The Hospice of St Francis

INTERMEDIATE COMMUNICATION SKILLS

**Having Sensitive Conversations within
the Context of Palliative Care**



Online



£25

Presenters:

Manisha Cook
Lecturer Practitioner/
Physiotherapist

Dee Cooke
Lecturer Practitioner/
Nurse



Open to all health and social care staff who have sensitive and complex conversations and have already attended an introductory communication skills course

Course Aims:

To explore strategies for dealing with sensitive and complex conversations so these can be applied to practice

Objectives:

- To identify what scenarios are difficult in practice
- To review communication skills available in your toolkit
- To state some strategies for handling different types of sensitive conversations
- To reflect on some communication scenarios in practice (video/ case study/ goldfish bowl)

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LUNCHTIME WELLBEING SERIES

Why me, Why now, Why Bother?

Wednesday

14

January

12.30pm - 1.30pm



In Person:
HP4 3GW



Offered on a
donation basis

Presenter:

Simon Shepard

Author of The Battle for Balance and Founder
of Optima-life.com



Open to Staff, Volunteers and the Public

Is your life a case of 'Work, eat,
rest, repeat'?

Do you feel more like a human
doing than a human being?

If yes is the answer to either of
these questions, this is an
opportunity for you to reflect
on.....you.

Course Aims:

- To start 2026 on a positive note
- Create a positive mindset
- Provide some ideas on how to navigate change (personal, organisational and world)

Objectives:

- Promote self reflection
- Provide a moment for reset
- Encourage people to take ownership of 2026

Suggested donation £10

all donations gratefully received towards the running of the Hospice

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PALLIATIVE CARE EMERGENCIES

Thursday
15
January
1pm-2.30pm



Online



Free

Presenters:

Dr Rebecca Sladden
Specialty Doctor in
Palliative Medicine

Claire Nicell
Joint Head of Education
and Learning



All clinicians who support palliative patients and who want to extend their knowledge about palliative care emergencies.

May be particularly suitable for ambulance clinicians, GPs, community staff and palliative care staff

Course Aims:

To give an overview of common palliative care emergencies

Objectives:

- To state common palliative care emergencies and their red flags (to include SVCO, MSCC, hypercalcaemia, haemorrhage, neutropenic sepsis)
- To describe the medical management of palliative care emergencies
- To consider ethical approaches to the management of palliative care emergencies
- To learn from case studies

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PALLIATIVE AND END OF LIFE CARE an Awareness Day

Tuesday
20
January
9.30am-4pm



Online



Free

Presenters:

Manisha Cook
Lecturer Practitioner/
Physiotherapist

Dee Cooke
Lecturer
Practitioner/Nurse



Would you like to . . .

Gain confidence in supporting
individuals who are dying?

Learn how to talk about death and
dying and what might be
important in the future?

Open to any health or social care
professional who wishes to gain a
basic awareness about palliative
and end of life care.

Also suitable for care home staff,
social care providers, allied health
professionals and anyone with an
interest in palliative care.

Course Aims:

To provide an overview of what palliative care can offer to
individuals

Objectives:

- To identify when individuals are deteriorating
- To recognise dying and the care individuals need
- To state the importance of effective communication
- To describe approaches to future planning
- To state what normal grief looks like and what help bereaved individuals may need

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AHP BITE SIZE

**Promoting Empowerment and Choice
for those Living with Long-term and
Palliative Conditions**

Thursday

22

January

12pm - 13.30pm



Online



£10

Presenters:

Amy Smissen

Lecturer Practitioner/Occupational Therapist



This session is suitable for therapists or healthcare professionals interested in learning how to support people to actively manage their health conditions and make decisions that align with their goals and values

Course Aims:

We hope to share our expertise and resources to support therapists in all healthcare settings to feel confident in promoting independence and empowerment to your service users

Objectives:

- To identify the challenges faced by therapists for promoting self-management for those living with life limiting conditions
- To share helpful communication and facilitative strategies to support individual empowerment & engagement
- To understand the importance of optimising family and community engagement when thinking about discharging patients from a healthcare setting

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ReSPECT AWARENESS for EVERYONE

Thursday
29
January
2pm-3pm



Online



Free

Presenters:

Claire Nicell
Joint Head of
Education and
Learning

Dee Cooke
Lecturer Practitioner/
Nurse



Any social and healthcare professional who supports people living with long term illnesses or life limiting illnesses who may have a ReSPECT form in place
Health and social care professionals who want to familiarise themselves with the form and know what to look for
This session is not targeted at healthcare professionals who will be completing the ReSPECT forms

Course Aims:

To familiarise yourself with the ReSPECT form

Objectives:

- Know what ReSPECT stands for
- Know what the aims of the ReSPECT process are
- Understand which patients are suitable for a ReSPECT form
- Know how to interpret a ReSPECT form in an emergency situation
- Know who can complete a ReSPECT form
- Know the answers to commonly asked questions about the use of the ReSPECT form in different settings

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BEREAVEMENT, LOSS & GRIEF – Introduction

Tuesday
3
February
1pm-4pm



Online



£15

Presenters:

Claire Nicell
Joint Head of Education and Learning



Suitable for those who encounter people who are experiencing loss and bereavement (whether in a professional or personal role)

Course Aims:

To explore what normal grief might look like and identify some ways of supporting people experiencing grief

Objectives:

- Definitions of bereavement, loss, mourning and grief
- Exploration of normal grief
- Bereavement theory including the ranges of response to loss model
- Strategies for supporting those experiencing loss and grief
- Case studies

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PERSON CENTRED CARE AND FRAILTY AWARENESS WORKSHOP

Thursday
5
February
12pm-2pm



Online



£15

Presenters:

Dee Cooke
Lecturer
Practitioner/Nurse

Manisha Cook
Lecturer Practitioner/
Physiotherapist



Suitable for all healthcare professionals supporting elderly patients

Course Aims:

This session aims to provide guidance on how to recognise frailty and considerations of how to support someone. We will explore the most recent NHS publication 'transforming the frailty pathway' and other relevant literature.

Objectives:

- To introduce the concept of frailty, its definition, identification and management in different care settings.
- To explore approaches to person-centred care, integrated assessment and promoting independence.
- To consider the unique needs of older people living with frailty through person-centred case studies.
- To explore the impact of acute health crises on older people with frailty

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TALKING ACP, DNACPR and ReSPECT

A Practical Approach

Thursday
12
February

9.30am - 12.30pm



Online



Free

Presenters:

Claire Nicell

Joint Head of Education and Learning



Would you like to increase your confidence in having conversations about peoples' wishes for the future? Would you like to explore approaches to discussing resuscitation v natural death?

Would you like a refresher about how to approach such conversations?

Suitable for all clinicians that regularly have these conversations including GP's, hospital doctors, clinical nurse specialists, allied health professionals

Course Aims:

To explore ways to talk about ACP, DNACPR and introduce ReSPECT

ACP = Advance Care Planning

DNACPR = Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Objectives:

- State the benefits and challenges of having advance care planning (ACP) conversations
- State the legality of different ACP documentation
- Describe communication skills and approaches that may help such conversations
- Describe some approaches and phrases that may help when discussing resuscitation and DNACPR
- Highlight good practice for completing a DNACPR/ReSPECT form

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LUNCHTIME WELLBEING SERIES

Understanding Mindfulness Meditation

Thursday

19

February

12.30pm - 1.30pm



In Person:
HP4 3GW



Offered on a
donation basis

Presenter:

Amber Cave
Patient Psychological Support Lead



Open to Staff, Volunteers and the Public

The word “Mindfulness” is used so much nowadays but do we actually know what it means and how it can benefit our wellbeing?

Come along to this informal yet informative session where you will develop a deeper understanding of the powerful benefits of mindfulness and experience it first-hand.

Course Aims:

This short Lunchtime Wellbeing session is designed to explore the benefits of simple mindfulness techniques. We will briefly cover some of the theory for this approach to wellbeing and then provide an opportunity to experience first-hand the benefits through a guided meditation. We hope you will leave feeling relaxed, refreshed and with an interest in using these techniques within your busy lives to help optimise your wellbeing

Objectives:

- To experience the benefits first-hand through participation in a guided meditation session
- To have an awareness of available resources to help inspire future participation in mindfulness

Suggested donation £10

all donations gratefully received towards the running of the Hospice

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COMPASSIONATE COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- Foundation Level

Tuesday
24
February
9.30am-1pm



Online



Free

Presenters:

Manisha Cook
Lecturer Practitioner/
Specialist
Physiotherapist

Dee Cooke
Lecturer Practitioner/
Nurse



Open to all internal and external
patient facing staff & volunteers

Whether your role involves you
working with patients, families or
bereaved individuals, this course
will help consider the importance
of empathy within communication
and reflect on possible responses
and skills when faced with
conversations requiring an
element of compassion

Course Aims:

To introduce participants to the concept of compassionate
communication so this can be applied to practice

Objectives:

- To identify communication challenges that you face in your role
- To describe and give examples of what helps and hinders effective communication
- To reflect on possible responses/skills
- To pinpoint personal resilience techniques

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AHP BITE SIZE

**Reframing Life's Challenges:
empowering people to break free from
unhelpful thinking styles**

Thursday
26
February
12pm - 13.30pm



Online



£10

Presenters:

Amy Smissen

Lecturer Practitioner/Occupational Therapist



Open to all Allied Health
Professionals and Wellbeing
Practitioners.

An opportunity to add a new
intervention tool or consolidate
existing knowledge/skills

Course Aims:

Based on the principles of the Cognitive Behavioural Approach, this session will give you a better understanding of how automatic thoughts can impact negatively on a patient's behaviour and how to support them in challenging these unhelpful thoughts.

We aim to share some practical theories and strategies for you to share with your patients to empower them to achieve a better quality of life within the context of their diagnosis.

Objectives:

- To be able to describe the key principles of the Cognitive Behavioural Approach
- To be able to identify 5 common styles of unhelpful thinking and how these influence behaviour
- To be able to support a patient to use a Thought Challenge Diary to facilitate the reframing of difficult situations

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LIVING AND DYING WELL WITH DEMENTIA

Are you a health and social care professional supporting individuals with dementia in their own home, care home or in hospital?

Would you like to enhance your knowledge, skills and confidence in supporting patients living with dementia, through their illness, with person centred care?

Join us as we share knowledge and expertise to enhance your practice.

During the course of the day we will:

- Describe the progression of dementia and its impact on individuals and their families
- Share approaches in symptom management such as pain and distress, communication and approaches to food and drink
- Recognise signs of approaching end of life and apply a palliative approach to dementia care
- Discuss the benefits of early future planning and the importance of advance care planning
- Encourage reflection and integration of best practices in dementia care including hearing the lived experience

Presented by:

Tracy Logan
Admiral Nurse
Carers in Herts

Dee Cooke
Lecturer Practitioner/Nurse
The Hospice of St Francis

Clinical Staff from The Hospice of St Francis

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Thursday
5th
March

9.30am - 4pm

A Study Day for Health and
Social Care Professionals
facilitated by
The Hospice of St Francis



In Person:
HP4 3GW
& Online



£35

(Lunch provided)



The Hospice
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LUNCHTIME WELLBEING SERIES

The Battle for Balance: Working Smart and Living Well

Tuesday
17
March

12.30pm - 1.30pm



In Person:
HP4 3GW



Offered on a
donation basis

Presenter:

Simon Shepard

Author of The Battle for Balance and Founder
of Optima-life.com



Open to Staff, Volunteers and the Public

A balanced life is one of those things that many desire and few truly achieve.

This session will look at some of the everyday habits which, if we get right, may energise; and if we can't are likely to drain and fatigue.

From the importance of working well to the ability to 'switch on' to life away from work, this session will be an opportunity for you to reflect, realign and reboot.

Course Aims:

- To consider 'the disconnects' in life that can so often trip us up
- To explore the relationship between energy focus and the creation of purposeful working and living
- The importance of being both efficient and effective

Objectives:

- Promote self reflection
- Increase knowledge
- Promote energy

Suggested donation £10

all donations gratefully received towards the running of the Hospice

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FUNGATING WOUNDS and PRESSURE ULCERS

Managing within the Context of
Palliative Care

Wednesday

18

March

9.30am - 4pm



In Person:
HP4 3GW



£30 (full day)
£15 (half day am or pm)

Presenters:

Elizabeth Higgs, Former Tissue Viability Nurse
(in conjunction with the Hertfordshire Tissue Viability
Team)

Supported by: Coloplast UK
(who will demonstrate use of some dressings)



Suitable for staff involved in the
assessment and management of
complex wounds within palliative
care context - may be particularly
suitable for nurses working in the
community or hospice setting

Course Aims:

To gain knowledge about, and confidence in, managing
fungating wounds and pressure ulcers in those approaching
end of life

Objectives:

- To state principles of good wound care management
- To identify the challenges associated with fungating wounds- for the patient, families, carers and staff
- To explore what dressings are suitable for promoting comfort of fungating wounds
- To use case studies to identify an holistic approach to wound care management
- To state what helps with pressure ulcer management, especially in those who are frail or approaching end of life
- To use case studies to identify an holistic approach to pressure ulcer management

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MASTERCLASS

Post-operative Breast Cancer Rehabilitation

Tuesday

24

March

12pm - 1.30pm



Online



£15

Presenter:

Priya Dasoju
Head of Therapies & Wellbeing and
Specialist Physiotherapist



Open to all clinical staff who are interested in learning and developing their knowledge base on the management and rehabilitation considerations following breast cancer surgery and treatment.

Course Aims:

To provide a comprehensive overview of the types of Breast Cancer Surgery, side effects of surgery and other interventions such as radiotherapy, which may cause limitation to function.

Objectives:

- To explore the assessment, treatment and management of breast cancer patients post surgery and treatment
- To understand the pathophysiology of Axillary Web Syndrome (AWS) and management options
- To gain an understanding of the benefits of scar therapy to support functional recovery
- To understand the importance of exercise in the management of Breast Cancer patients

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AHP BITE SIZE

Management of Breathlessness for People Living with Life Limiting Conditions

Thursday

26

March

12pm - 13.30pm



Online



£10

Presenter:

Manisha Cook

Lecturer Practitioner/Physiotherapist



Any therapist or healthcare professionals supporting people living with life limiting conditions

Course Aims:

This session will focus on causes and management of breathlessness including cardiorespiratory and anxiety related breathlessness

Objectives:

- To consider and understand different types of breathlessness (physical and non physical)
- To take away 4 practical strategies that can be used to support patients who are living with breathlessness
- To consider how non-pharmacological approaches for breathlessness can complement pharmacological intervention.

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WELLBEING SERIES



Sessions held at
The Hospice of St Francis
HP4 3GW

Wednesday

14

January

12.30pm-1.30pm

Wellbeing: Why me, Why now, Why bother?

Is your life a case of 'Work, eat, rest, repeat? Do you feel more like a human doing than a human being?

This is an opportunity to reflect on You

Mindfulness - Meditation

Come along to this informal yet informative session where you will develop a deeper understanding of the powerful benefits of mindfulness and experience it first hand

Thursday

19

February

12.30pm-1.30pm

The Battle for Balance: Working Smart and Living Well

A balanced life is one of those things that many desire and few truly achieve. Join us as we look at some of the everyday habits which, if we get right, may energise; and if we can't are likely to drain and fatigue.

Tuesday

17

March

12.30pm-1.30pm

Supporting Wellbeing through Nature

Experience the benefits first-hand through participation in nature based activity within the beautiful surroundings of the Hospice garden

Thursday

23

April

12.30pm-1.30pm

Wednesday

13

May

12.30pm-1.30pm

Reframing Life's Challenges

Need help breaking free from unhelpful thinking patterns? Learn simple techniques to overcome these unhelpful thinking styles

Embracing Menopause with Positivity

Menopause is more than just a biological transition; it's a journey that influences every aspect of life.

Time to flip the narrative and feel empowered through this turning point in life

Tuesday

9

June

1.30pm-2.30pm

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PALLIATIVE CARE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (PCDP)



Delivered by:

The Hospice of St Francis (HOSF) and Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care (RGPHC)



Rennie Grove Peace

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Nurses, Allied Health Professionals (AHP's) and Associate Practitioners who provide palliative care and rehabilitation and wish to develop a good foundation in palliative care clinical practice.

We recommend this course for Band 5/6 practitioners.

2026 DATES

(2½ hours each afternoon 1.30-4pm)

- Day 1 (full day) 14th January
- Day 2 - 21st January
- Day 3 - 4th February
- Day 4 - 11th February
- Day 5 - 25th February
- Day 6 - 4th March
- Day 7 - 18th March
- Day 8 - 25th March

COURSE STRUCTURE

Each of the 8 days includes a recommended 4 hours of self-directed learning (from provided materials) in the morning (although this study can be done at any time during the week if it suits your schedule better.) The afternoon comprises a 2 ½ hour interactive and reflective session with experienced palliative care clinicians. The course will be facilitated virtually via zoom.

CONTENT:

This 8 day programme offers a learning opportunity to enable trained staff in all settings to develop and sustain their ability to care for people and support people who are living with life threatening illness.

It's core content is based on Health Education England 2019 (HEE) End of Life Care Learning Outcomes and includes a focus on:

- Communication Skills
- Assessment and Care Planning - Holistic Person Centred Care
- Symptom Management – including care in the last days of life
- Advance Care Planning
- Underpinning Values of Palliative Care
- Knowledge about Palliative Care - including loss and bereavement
- Leadership and collaboration – Quality of Life and Living Well with Life Limiting Conditions
- Developing Self and others - looking at resilience
- Improving Quality and Developing Practice - completing a worked-based action plan



STUDENT OUTCOMES:

- Pre and post course outcome framework completion
- Accessing recommended learning and attendance at reflective webinars
- Two pieces of reflection
- Completion and presentation of a work-based action plan
- Completion of a personal achievement summary

"This course is excellent value for money and covers a wide range of topics which are so relevant to working in Palliative Care"

"Hugely beneficial in helping me better my working practice"

(Course attendees 2024)

HOW DO I BOOK?

For enquiries and to receive an application form, please contact education@stfrancis.org.uk

Cost -£250 per delegate for this 8 day course

Administrated by:

The Hospice of St Francis
Spring Garden Lane, Northchurch,
Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 3GW
Tel: 01442 869550



STFRANCIS.ORG.UK

Reg. Charity No. 280825

ADVANCED COMMUNICATION SKILLS TRAINING

Delivered by the
HERTS AND BEDS PALLIATIVE AND END OF LIFE CARE EDUCATION GROUP

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

All experienced Health and Social Care Professionals (Band 6 & above) who have difficult conversations as part of their everyday role and have had previous communication skills training.

WHEN IS THE COURSE?

7 & 8 January 2026
10 & 11 February 2026
11 & 12 March 2026
8 & 9 April 2026
7 & 8 May 2026
2 & 3 June 2026
1 & 2 July 2026

15 & 16 September 2026
6 & 7 October 2026
11 & 12 November 2026
2 & 3 Dec 2026

Delivered virtually via Zoom
View dates online at

stfrancis.org.uk/clinicians

CONTENT:

Based on the connected model using professional actors, this 2-day course will provide delegates with key communication strategies for managing difficult conversations that they experience in their role: Small groups of (maximum 6) delegates practice scenarios with the actors playing different roles (such as the patient or family member). These scenarios may include:

- Handling strong emotions
- Difficult Conversations with patients and families
- Giving significant news to the patient and or family member
- Introducing sensitive topics (such as DNACPR conversations)

Delegates are expected to have completed Foundation & Intermediate level communication skills training at least 3-6 months prior to enrolling for the Advanced course.

WHAT HAVE OUR DELEGATES SAID?

"This course really makes you think differently about the way you can communicate with patients/families and gives you strategies and techniques that you might have never thought about before. Furthermore, it teaches you about cues the patient gives which can make such a difference to the whole consultation. I found the course extremely beneficial and interactive"

"This course was highly recommended to me. Everyone who has been on it raves about how amazing it because it is 'so real' and relevant to what I do every day"



HOW DO I BOOK?

For enquiries and to book onto the course, please contact education@stfrancis.org.uk

Cost -£600 per delegate for the 2-day course. Fees are required on application.

Previous delegates have been able to obtain funding from external organisations, particularly those from hospice and community nursing settings.

Please ask education@stfrancis.org.uk for more details or visit our website www.stfrancis.org.uk/clinicians

Administrated by:

The Hospice of St Francis
Spring Garden Lane, Northchurch,
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Tel: 01442 869550



EUROPEAN CERTIFICATE in Essential Palliative Care

The majority of healthcare professionals working in hospitals and the community look after patients with palliative care needs on a regular basis.

The European Certificate in Essential Palliative Care (ECEPC) is aimed at helping professionals consolidate and develop their palliative care confidence and expertise. The course is designed to meet the needs of healthcare professionals new to specialist palliative care services who wish to establish a strong foundation of knowledge on which to build specialist knowledge and skills.

The course is a 9-week home learning, multi-professional programme, covering:

What is palliative care and who is it for?
Patients with emergency conditions
Breaking bad news to patients and families
Common ethical issues

Symptom issues in palliative care
Patients in the last 48 hours of life
Bereavement and support

The course was developed at Princess Alice Hospice in 2001. It is now offered at a range of sites both nationally and internationally – including The Hospice of St Francis, Berkhamsted.

The course runs twice a year and the fee is £600

For the date of the next course and to register please visit our [website](https://www.stfrancis.org.uk/education).

Suitable for medical and nursing staff, paramedics, allied health professionals including nursing and physician associates from acute, community and hospice care settings

- Spring 2026:**
 - Monday 13 April (Course Launch)
 - Wednesday 17 June (Assessment Day)
- Autumn 2026:**
 - Monday 7 Sept (Course Launch)
 - Wednesday 11 Nov (Assessment Day)

FIND OUT MORE!

Scan the QR
code or visit:



[stfrancis.org.uk/education](https://www.stfrancis.org.uk/education)

E: education@stfrancis.org.uk



INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES

Candidates are invited to an online introductory evening with The Hospice of St Francis

COURSE RESOURCE

Candidates will receive an extensive Course Handbook containing the core text material. Candidates will also have access to the Princess Alice Hospice virtual learning environment – learningzone.pah.org.uk and be allocated a facilitator who will support them through their portfolio submission and help with the assessment element of the course. The facilitators are experienced practitioners in specialist palliative care, who will be available by email or telephone. Note: There are no formal teaching sessions, however, support sessions are offered

ASSESSMENT

Candidates undertake three different forms of assessment:

Portfolio – Based on a patient the candidate has cared for with palliative care needs, the 2,500 word portfolio should include the effect it has on both personal and professional level. It should be supported by literature and demonstrate the learning will influence future care.

Exam – There will be a one hour examination, which will include short true / false questions covering the principles of palliative care explored in the Course Handbook. It will also include four questions on common opioid dose conversions.

Practical / verbal (Viva) – This is a short verbal assessment exploring the knowledge and skills developed during the course.

A pass is required in each of the elements.

HOW LONG IS THE COURSE?

This is a 9-week home learning course. Please note virtual attendance on assessment day is mandatory. It is recommended you carry out around 50 hours personal study, but this will vary depending on previous experience of palliative care.

WHERE?

The course is co-ordinated by Princess Alice Hospice in Esher. The Hertfordshire local site is run by The Hospice of St Francis, Berkhamsted.

FUNDING

External funding opportunities may be available for Hospice and Hertfordshire community staff.

Please contact education@stfrancis.org.uk for more information.

REGISTER

To register with The Hospice of St Francis or for more information contact: 01442 869550 / education@stfrancis.org.uk
For information about other sites, please contact 01372 461858
europeanecertificate@pah.org.uk



On successful completion of the assessments, candidates will be awarded the Princess Alice Hospice European Certificate in Essential Palliative Care.