

**#EDUCATING**  
for Excellence

# PALLIATIVE & END OF LIFE CARE EDUCATION PROGRAMME



April to June  
2026

[stfrancis.org.uk](http://stfrancis.org.uk)



**The Hospice**  
of st francis

# WELCOME

## to our Palliative and End of Life Care (PEoLC) Education Brochure for Apr - Jun 2026



The aim of this brochure is to detail palliative and end of life care education available during Apr to Jun 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](mailto: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



# New! Tiered Levels of Training

Palliative and end of life care (PEoLC) is everyone's business but different people and professionals need different amounts of knowledge and skills to effectively carry out their different roles in relation to PEoLC.

Hertfordshire and West Essex ICB have produced a competency document to identify the different key knowledge and skills needed for different staff groups to effectively carry out their roles.

These are grouped under Awareness for All (Tier 1), Intermediate Level (Tier 2) and Advanced Level (Tier 3).

Throughout this brochure you will see at what level each course is targeted.

We hope this will help you to book onto the appropriate course for you.

In case of any query please get in touch to discuss your requirements by emailing [education@stfrancis.org.uk](mailto:education@stfrancis.org.uk)

## Awareness for All (Tier 1)

### Target Audience:

Health Care Assistants, Support Workers, Reception/Admin staff, Social Care Workers, Volunteers, Allied Health Professionals (non-clinical), non-clinical care home staff

### Training Focus:

- Understand core principles of End-of-Life Care (EoLC)
- Recognise deterioration and escalate concerns appropriately
- Deliver compassionate, person-centred care

## Intermediate Level (Tier 2)

### Target Audience:

Registered Nurses, Community Nurses, Care Coordinators, Paramedics, Allied Health Professionals (clinical), Social Workers, Hospice staff, Primary Care staff (e.g. GPs, ANPs)

### Training Focus:

- Conduct holistic assessments
- Support Advance Care Planning (ACP)
- Manage symptoms and refer appropriately
- Coordinate MDT input and care planning

## Advanced Level (Tier 3)

### Target Audience:

Specialist Palliative Care Nurses, Consultants in Palliative Medicine, Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Educators, Senior GPs, Clinical Leads, Prescribing Pharmacists, Specialist Mental Health Professionals

### Training Focus:

- Lead complex clinical decision-making
- Manage palliative emergencies
- Prescribe and monitor medications
- Support ethical and legal decision-making
- Educate and supervise others

## Open to All

Some of the courses we offer are open to all and everyone - including members of the public, patients, family members, volunteers and staff. Please do come and join us.

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# 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](mailto:education@stfrancis.org.uk)

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



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Intermediate Level (Tier 2)

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# INTERMEDIATE COMMUNICATION SKILLS

## Having Sensitive Conversations within the Context of Palliative Care

Tuesday

**14**

**April**

9.30am-4pm

Alternative Dates:

Wednesday 8th July 2026

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2026

Tuesday 12th January 2027



**Online**



**£25**

### Presenters:

**Manisha Cook**  
Lecturer Practitioner/  
Physiotherapist

**Claire Nicell**  
Joint Head of Education  
and Learning



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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## AHP BITE SIZE

### Sleep Matters

A Guide to promoting healthy sleep habits - an AHP Approach

Thursday

16

April

12pm - 13.30pm



Online

Presenters:



£10

Amy Smissen

Lecturer Practitioner/  
Occupational Therapist

Manisha Cook

Practitioner/  
Physiotherapist



Open to all Allied Health Professionals interested in learning strategies to support people to improve their sleep habits.

This session will focus on encouraging healthy sleep routines for patients living with a palliative or long-term condition, their family members or carers.

#### Course Aims:

By the end of this session you will have a better understanding of the common issues often faced by people living with a long-term health condition and how to support them to make positive changes to their sleep routines.

#### Objectives:

- To be able to recognise common sleep issues and the impact of this on a patient's wellbeing
- To be able to identify three factors contributing to disturbed sleep
- To have an understanding of three practical strategies to support patients in achieving optimal sleep routines

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# ReSPECT AWARENESS for EVERYONE

Tuesday  
**21**  
April  
2pm-3pm

 Online

 Free

**Presenter:**

Claire Nicell  
Joint Head of Education and Learning



Suitable for 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

**NOTE: 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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Thursday

**23**

**April**

12.30pm - 1.30pm



**In Person:**  
HP4 3GW

Offered on a  
donation basis

**Presenters:**



**Louise Barker**  
Macmillan Senior Wellbeing Practitioner

**Amy Smissen**  
Lecturer Practitioner/ Community Occupational  
Therapist



Suitable for anyone with an interest in optimising their health and wellbeing through the power of nature

This short Lunchtime Wellbeing session is designed to explore the vast benefits of active engagement with the natural world. Covering the theory and then illustrating the benefits through practical experience. We hope you will leave feeling relaxed, invigorated and with a desire to seek out more opportunities to harness the power of nature

**Objectives:**

- To understand the basic principles and benefits of nature connection for wellbeing
- To leave with 3 – 4 simple ideas for increasing your active engagement with the natural world
- To experience the benefits first-hand through participation in a nature-based activity within the beautiful surroundings of the Hospice garden
- To have an awareness of available resources to help inspire further nature connection

**Suggested donation £10**

**all donations gratefully received towards the running of the Hospice**

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# PALLIATIVE AND END OF LIFE CARE OVERVIEW for Ambulance Clinicians

Wednesday  
**29**  
April  
9.30am-12.30pm

 Online

 Free

## Presenters:

**Claire Nicell**  
Joint Head of Education  
and Learning



Open to any ambulance staff who have direct patient contact and who wish to gain a basic awareness about palliative and end of life care

### Course Aims:

To provide an overview of palliative care essentials

### Objectives:

- To recognise dying and deterioration
- To describe the role of anticipatory medicines in making patients comfortable
- To explore documents available to aid decision making in palliative care (including ReSPECT)
- To state services that can support the management of palliative care patients (particularly in Hertfordshire)
- To highlight key communication skills

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# INTRODUCTION TO PALLIATIVE CARE for Non-Clinicians

Thursday  
**30**  
April

9.30am-1pm



**Online**



**Free**

**Presenter:**

**Amy Smissen**

Lecturer Practitioner/  
Occupational Therapist



All non-clinical staff and volunteers who want an introduction to palliative care. This could be a receptionist in a GP surgery, a fundraiser for a Hospice or anyone looking to learn more about palliative care and what it offers people.

**Course Aims:**

To gain an overview of palliative care

**Objectives:**

- Define palliative care and end of life care
- Who can benefit from palliative care and when?
- Describe what a good death looks like
- State the benefits of planning ahead and honest conversations

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# 'DYING MATTERS Starting the Conversation'

Tuesday  
**12**  
May  
12.30am-2pm



**Online**

## Presenter:

**Claire Nicell**  
Joint Head of Education and Learning

**FREE event open  
to everyone**



An opportunity to help people start talking about why dying matters at work and beyond.

Suitable for anyone who wants to start conversations about dying - whether with family members, friends or people you are supporting

### Course Aims:

To explore some tools and approaches that may be helpful in talking about dying matters

### Objectives:

- To establish why it might be helpful to talk about dying matters
- To identify when it might be good to have such conversations
- To explore some approaches to having these conversations
- To state what aspects of dying matters might be important to establish
- To highlight what services and resources are available to support dying matters

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# LUNCHTIME WELLBEING SERIES

## Reframing Life's Challenges: How to break free from unhelpful thinking patterns

Wednesday

**13**

**May**

12.30pm - 1.30pm



**In Person:**  
HP4 3GW



Offered on a  
donation basis

### Presenter:

**Amy Smissen**  
Lecturer Practitioner/  
Occupational Therapist



Are you interested in breaking free from unhelpful thinking patterns?

Based on the principles of the Cognitive Behavioural Approach, this session will give you a better insight into the often negative impact our automatic thoughts can have on our response to difficult situations. The session hopes to then provide you with some simple techniques for overcoming these unhelpful thinking styles in order to help alleviate unwanted stress and anxiety

### Objectives:

- To understand the basic principles of the Cognitive Behavioural Approach
- To develop a deeper insight into your own common unhelpful thinking styles
- To have an awareness of simple techniques for putting your thoughts "on trial"
- To understand how to use a Thought Challenge Diary to deal with future challenges

**Suggested donation £10**

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# ReSPECT/ DNACPR Competency Day (to become ReSPECT/DNACPR writers)

Tuesday  
**19**  
May  
9am-4.30pm



**In Person:**  
HP4 3GW



**Free**

**Presenters:**

**Claire Nicell**  
Joint Head of  
Education and  
Learning

**Manisha Cook**  
Lecturer Practitioner /  
Physiotherapist

ReSPECT Recommended Summary Plan for Emergency Care and Treatment	
Full name	
Date of birth	
Address	
NHS/CHI/Health and care number	
1. This plan belongs to:	
Preferred name	
Date completed	
The ReSPECT process starts with conversations between a person and a healthcare professional. The ReSPECT form is a clinical record of agreed recommendations. It is not a legally binding document.	
2. Shared understanding of my health and current condition	
Summary of relevant information for this plan including diagnoses and relevant personal circumstances:	
Details of other relevant care planning documents and where to find them (e.g. Advance or Anticipatory Care Plan; Advance Decision to Refuse Treatment or Advance Directive; Emergency plan for the carer):	
I have a legal welfare proxy in place (e.g. registered welfare attorney, person with parental responsibility) - if yes provide details in Section 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3. What matters to me in decisions about my treatment and care in an emergency	
Living as long as possible matters most to me	Quality of life and comfort matters most to me
What I most value:	What I most fear / wish to avoid:

Open to senior (non-medical) clinicians who wish to undertake the Hertfordshire ReSPECT/DNACPR competencies to enable them to complete ReSPECT forms (including decision around DNACPR)

**NOTE: Due to the nature of this course and the inclusion of role play, this course will only run with 4-5 delegates per course**

### Course Aims:

To equip delegates with the knowledge, skills and confidence to complete ReSPECT/DNACPR conversations and paperwork

### Objectives:

- To identify the context and legality around ReSPECT/ DNACPR conversations
- To identify good practice about ways to initiate and have conversations around ReSPECT/ DNACPR
- To participate in a ReSPECT/ DNACPR role play and receive feedback
- To identify how to complete ReSPECT form effectively

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# AHP BITE SIZE

## Anxiety Management - a Toolbox Approach

Thursday

21

May

12pm - 13.30pm



Online



£10

**Presenters:**

**Amy Smissen**

Lecturer Practitioner/Occupational Therapist



Open to all AHP and Wellbeing Practitioners interested in learning strategies to support people experiencing anxiety.

This session will focus on the causes and impact of anxiety on an individuals wellbeing and day to day functioning. It will then explore a range of practical tools that can be taught to patients to give them better sense of control over their mood and emotional wellbeing.

**Course Aims:**

By the end of the session, you will be equipped with a “toolkit” of practical techniques and approaches for supporting people experiencing anxiety

**Objectives:**

- To understand what is meant by anxiety and other related terminology
- To understand the mechanism and impact of the stress response
- To leave with 3 – 4 simple techniques for supporting anxiety management
- To recognise the importance of self-care in relation to supporting others

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**COMPASSIONATE  
COMMUNICATION  
SKILLS - Foundation  
Level**

Alternative Dates:  
Tuesday 8th December 2026  
Wednesday 3rd March 2027

Wednesday  
**3**  
June  
9.30am-1pm

 **Online**

 **Free**

**Presenters:**

**Manisha Cook**  
Lecturer Practitioner/  
Physiotherapist

**Amy Smissen**  
Lecturer Practitioner/  
Occupational Therapist



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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# LUNCHTIME WELLBEING SERIES

## Embracing Menopause with Positivity

Tuesday

9

June

1.30pm - 2.30pm



**In Person:**  
HP4 3GW



Offered on a  
donation basis

### Presenter:

Dr Fionnuala Barton  
The Menopause Medic



#### Open to Staff, Volunteers and the Public

Menopause is more than just a biological transition; it's a journey that influences every aspect of life. Symptoms of hormone imbalance may subtly appear at any age, but as we approach our midlife, their impact can profoundly affect our daily living, relationships, and self-perception

#### Course Aims:

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

#### Objectives:

- To develop a better understanding of the What, When and Why of menopause
- To obtain a framework for embracing this season of life full of confidence, clarity and calm
- Learn accessible tips, tricks and tweaks to add o your personal menopause toolkit

**Suggested donation £10**

all donations gratefully received towards the running of the Hospice

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# TIER 2 OLIVER MCGOWAN 1 DAY WORKSHOP

This 1-day course consists of a half day session on learning disability and a half day session on autism

**Note:** This session is in addition to the Oliver McGowan e-learning and mandatory for Health and Social care staff

**Alternative Dates to be confirmed:**

Tuesday  
**16**  
June  
9.30am-4pm



**HP4 3GW**



**£50**

## Presenters:

**1Stop Training Ltd**  
Accredited Oliver McGowan training provider.

Delivered by experts with lived experience and a facilitating co-trainer working with 1Stop Training Ltd

## Who should attend?

- Health and social care workforce



## Course Content

- Opportunity to ask questions to autistic individuals and people with a learning disability
- Handouts, practice tools and resources
- Approved Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training Certificate of Completion

By completing the right Tier of the Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training, you will be meeting the requirements of the Health and Care Act 2022 and the CQC

## Course Aims:

Oliver's training supports the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan ambition by upskilling the wider health and care workforce to provide appropriately adjusted care for people with a learning disability and autistic people to reduce health inequality.

## After attending this course, learners will be able to:

- Give an overview of both learning disability and autism
- Explain the protections provided by the legal framework and guidance on best practice for learning disability and autism
- Reflect on own and organisational practice
- Action plan for required changes in practice

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## **AHP BITE SIZE** **Principles of Cancer Rehabilitation**

**Using a holistic approach to support someone living with cancer**

Thursday

**18**

**June**

12pm - 13.30pm



**Online**

**Presenters:**



**£10**

**Amy Smissen**

Lecturer Practitioner/ Occupational Therapist

**Manisha Cook**

Lecturer Practitioner/ Physiotherapist



Suitable for any therapist or healthcare clinician supporting someone living with cancer diagnosis

**Course Aims:**

To develop learners' understanding of holistic rehabilitation for individuals living with cancer, we will be considering the needs of both patients on a curative pathway and those on a more palliative pathway

**Objectives:**

- To consider some of the physical, psychological and cognitive challenges that are commonly known for people living with cancer
- State some approaches to the non-pharmacological management of these cancer symptoms
- To look at current guidelines surrounding cancer rehabilitation

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# MASTERCLASS

## Reframing Pain

## Integrating body, mind and meaning

Wednesday

24

June

12.30pm - 2pm



Online



£15

### Presenter:

Dr Elise Aitchison  
Speciality Doctor, GP in Urgent Care,  
background in psychology



Open to all Senior clinicians who support patients with complex pain and want to explore different approaches to its management. May be particularly suitable for GPs, hospital medics, hospice clinicians, community matrons, district nurses and clinical nurse specialists.

#### Course Aims:

To stimulate thought, using case based discussion, to reframe our management of pain

#### Objectives:

- To understand what pain is and why it is an individual experience
- To consider body, mind and meaning in understanding pain
- To discuss the evidence behind the medications we use and why medication may not be working
- To consider ways to reframe pain by working through case based examples

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# PALLIATIVE CARE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (PCDP)

Intermediate Level (Tier 2)

Sept-Dec 2026



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

## 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.

## AUTUMN 2026 DATES

(2 ½ hours each afternoon 1.30-4pm)

- Day 1 (full day) 15th September
- Day 2 - 22nd September
- Day 3 - 6th October
- Day 4 - 13th October
- Day 5 – 3rd November
- Day 6 – 10th November
- Day 7 – 24th November
- Day 8 – 1st December

## 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

*"Great course for those new to palliative care as well as those wanting a refresher"*

*(Course attendee 2025)*

## HOW DO I BOOK?

For enquiries and to receive an application form, please contact [education@stfrancis.org.uk](mailto: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



# 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?

8 & 9 April 2026 **FULL**  
7 & 8 May 2026 **FULL**  
2 & 3 June 2026 **FULL**  
1 & 2 July 2026 **FULL**

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

Delivered virtually via Zoom  
View dates online at

[stfrancis.org.uk/clinicians](http://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 3-6months 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 is 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](mailto: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](mailto:education@stfrancis.org.uk) for more details or visit our website [www.stfrancis.org.uk/clinicians](http://www.stfrancis.org.uk/clinicians)

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# 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? | Symptom issues in palliative care     |
| Patients with emergency conditions         | Patients in the last 48 hours of life |
| Breaking bad news to patients and families | Bereavement and support               |
| Common ethical issues                      |                                       |

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](#).

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

- Autumn 2026:**
  - Monday 7 Sept (Course Launch)
  - Wednesday 11 Nov (Assessment Day)
- Spring 2027:**
  - Monday 12 April (Course Launch)
  - Wednesday 16 Jun (Assessment Day)

## FIND OUT MORE!

Scan the QR code or visit:



[stfrancis.org.uk/education](http://stfrancis.org.uk/education)

E: [education@stfrancis.org.uk](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:education@stfrancis.org.uk)

For information about other sites, please contact 01372 461858

[europeancertificate@pah.org.uk](mailto:europeancertificate@pah.org.uk)



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