

O6 'End of life' and palliative care considerations

Assessment of these competencies is via Mini-CEX, CbD (formative or summative) or ACAT-EM and a reflective log. In addition, key aspects of communication and professionalism can be captured through MSF.

Potential presentations in which these competencies could be assessed include the following:

- End stage cancer or disease
- Care of dying patient requiring symptom control

Trainees are expected to achieve EPA level 2 (Direct active – full supervision by senior clinician, with prompting/ verbal and actual guidance and help throughout) in these competencies.

Knowledge/ Skill/ Behaviour	Detail of competency
Knowledge	Is able to explain signs of a patient who is dying and common emergency presentations, including pain, nausea and vomiting, hypercalcaemia, bleeding, seizures, spinal cord compression
	Can outline the management of common symptoms of patients presenting towards end of life or dying including nausea & vomiting, anorexia, breathlessness, pain, psychological distress, incontinence, oral health care
Skills- History	Understands the importance of taking an accurate history of medications and issues that may arise from polypharmacy
	Is able to assess patients and identify those towards the end of life. Understand the importance of assessment of social, psychological and spiritual requirements
Skills - Examination	Carries out full examination, including assessment of mental state, nutritional and hydration status
	Is able to carry out an assessment and implement management of pain, including in patients with cognitive impairment, utilising pain scores and analgesic ladder
Skills- investigation and treatment	Initiates investigations and management, taking into account appropriateness of invasive investigations and treatments in the dying patient
Skills- Clinical decision making and judgement (In addition to CC1)	Discusses the patients' needs and preferences regarding care in the last days of life, including preferred place of death, investigations and treatments and resuscitation orders

Knowledge/ Skill/ Behaviour	Detail of competency
Behaviour- Communication & professionalism (In addition to CC7 & CC8)	Is able to sensitively communicate with patients and family/carers who present in last days of life, to elicit preferences for care and wishes in terms of treatment
	Is able to explain issues, symptoms that may arise towards the end of life for the frail and unwell and can to explain these to patient and carers and outline management plans
	Is able to listen with sympathy and understanding to concerns of family / carers and patient
	Is able to communicate with other clinicians and act as an advocate for patient who is frail or dying
Paediatric competencies	No additional competencies