

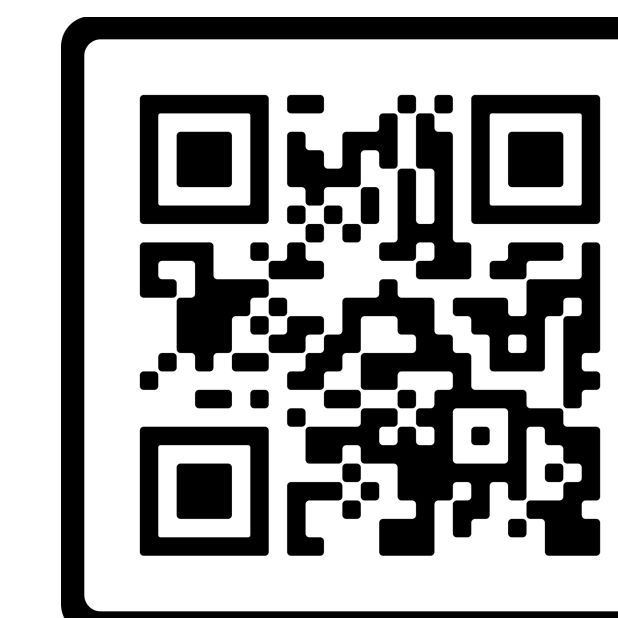
Learning How to Care for Seriously Ill and Dying Patients: A Palliative Care Rotation for Primary Care Interns

Eva DeLappe, MD, PGY-2

Nora Segar, MD, MPH

Yale Primary Care Program

Palliative Medicine Department



Background

- All internal medicine (IM) residents care for seriously ill and dying patients.
- Many trainees feel unprepared in providing palliative or end-of-life care.
- ACGME now requires palliative care training in IM residencies.
- Studies show that residents who complete a palliative care rotation have improved comprehension of key end-of-life topics, with learning sustained at 1 year and 2 years post-rotation.
- Lack of studies that compare learning outcomes with control group.

Objective

- To see if a mandatory Palliative Care rotation improves primary care (PC) interns' comfort with and knowledge of key concepts in symptom management, communication skills, and care of seriously ill patients.

Curriculum Structure

- All 18 PC interns in 2022-2023 complete two-week rotation:
 - set goals with attending, with observed encounters and feedback at least 1x weekly
 - follow 1-2 patients, writing notes daily
 - observe 1-2 family meetings, leading at least 1 with support
 - watch pain management lecture and additional lectures about nausea, code status discussion, advanced care planning, or hospice
 - practice worksheets and review with attending
 - participate in interdisciplinary meetings with social work and chaplain

Program Assessment

- Pre post survey of comfort with and knowledge of "Entrustable Professional Activities" (see right), with a historical control
- Paired T test of pre and post-rotation
- MedHub feedback

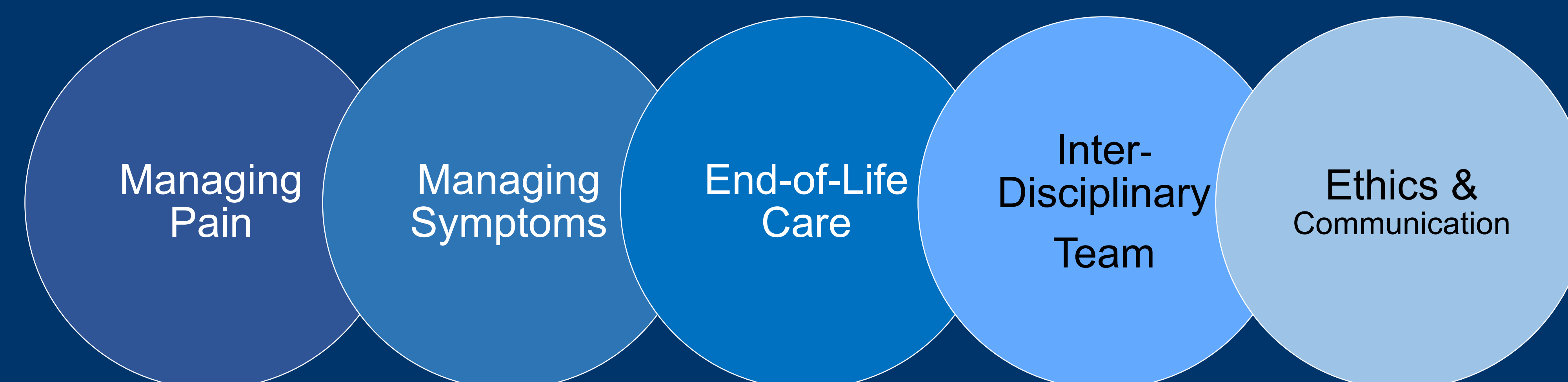
Results/Conclusions

- In preliminary data (n=12):
 - Gains in comfort with key skills (p=0.14)
 - Significant gains in knowledge (p=0.003)
- Awaiting end of year to complete data collection and compare to historical control group.
- Participants indicate improved comfort in communications skills and pain and symptom management on MedHub evaluations.
- Another measurable outcome to track longitudinally will be specialty interest growth in palliative care.

Future Directions

- Expand palliative care intern rotation to other IM programs
- Incorporate intern feedback to improve curriculum structure

Learning Objectives



Entrustable Professional Activities



Preliminary Results

