Collaborative Practice in the palliative care environment:

A Grounded Theory Study

Christine McDonald
Antoinette McCallin
Rod MacLeod
28 November, 2012
Introduction

Life's a dance you learn as you go
Sometimes you lead, sometimes you follow
Don't worry about what you don't know
Life's a dance you learn as you go

- John Michael Montgomery
Why this topic?

Know something's not right
But
Not sure what’s wrong
Equals
Research topic
Definitions

- **Collaborative Practice:**
  ...multiple workers from different professional backgrounds provide comprehensive services...

- **Palliative Care:**
  ...care for people of all ages with a life-limiting illness...
The Collaborative Practice and Palliative Care Link
Why is this important?

- Aging workforce
- Aging population
- Increasing demand
- Increasing complexity
- Limited funding, human and other resources
International perspective

- UK
  - Centre for the Advancement of Interprofessional Education (CAIPE)
- Canada
  - Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative (CIHC)
  - National Interprofessional Competency Framework
- Australia
  - Learning and Teaching for Interprofessional Practice (L-TIPP)
New Zealand

National Centre for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice – AUT.
The Question

What is the main concern of health professionals working collaboratively (with colleagues and patients) in palliative care and how do they manage that?
Rationale and Significance

**Known**
- The broad parameters of collaborative practice
- It’s a complex social process

**Unknown**
- How collaborative practice translates into clinical practice
- How to sustain this once it is achieved
Study Design

- Classic Grounded Theory
  - A systematic generation of theory from data
  - Inductive methodology
  - An integrated set of conceptual hypothesis
  - Well suited to discovering the participants problem and then generating a theory accounting for the processing of the problem
    (Glaser 1998)
Study Design

- Data collection
- Constant comparative analysis
Study Participants

Inclusion criteria

- Health professionals with 5 or more years experience in providing palliative care

- Patients with a palliative diagnosis who have had experience of palliative care in both community and in-patient settings

- Over 18 years of age
Study Participants

Exclusion Criteria

- Any potential participant who is unable to converse openly and freely in English.

- Any potential patient who has cognitive impairment owing to a physical or mental cause, for example dementia or delirium.
Study Participants

A note on researching a vulnerable population
Current status of research

- 18 interviews to date
- Analysis continues
- Beginnings of a core category emerging.
Where to from here

- Continue analysis and coding. More interviews as needed.
- Theory development
- Thesis and Publication
- Using the information gained to improve patient care – knowledge into practice.
References

Ask me.