



Project Title: Enhancing the quality of end of life care: Improving clinician/patient and family communication		Code: SPH7
Host School / Institute: Sydney School of Public Health		Address: University of Sydney Westmead Campus, with regular travel to Blacktown Hospital required.
Certificates & Clearances required: Yes *Vaccination Certificate *Working with children clearance *Police clearance *Uncertain <i>Information on how to obtain certificates, where necessary, will be given to successful applicants.</i>		
Primary Supervisor: Prof Don Nutbeam		
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Co-Supervisor/team: Dr Danielle Muscat, Kristie Weir, Dana Mouwad (Western Sydney LHD) and Katherine Maka (Western Sydney LHD)		
Project Type: Qualitative Analysis		
Project Category: End of life; Cardiovascular		
Skills / Attributes of a successful student: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest and value placed on the importance of communication in medicine and improving health literacy. • Excellent communication skills, verbal and written • Attention to detail and an interest in qualitative research 		
Project Keywords: end of life; health literacy; patient communication; Cardiology; Gastroenterology		
<p>Project Description: The departments of Cardiology and Gastroenterology at Blacktown Hospital in Western Sydney, in collaboration with the Health Literacy Hub, are seeking to improve the quality and effectiveness of communication with patients when they are approaching the end of their life.</p> <p>This project will contribute to the formative research that will support improvements to patient communications designed to enable optimal preparation for end-of-life decision making. The student will work with expert supervisors to conduct semi-structured interviews with patients, clinicians and support staff to better understand the patient information needs and preferences, and the perceived challenges and practicalities of meeting these needs from the perspective of clinicians and support staff.</p> <p>The project overall will also require the student to familiarise themselves with relevant published literature and best practice in clinician-patient communication, and communication at the end of life. The work forms part of a wider collaboration between the University and Western Sydney Local Health District (LHD) to improve patient health literacy, and the quality and effectiveness of communication with patients. The student would have the opportunity to engage with other staff in the LHD who are working on cognate projects to improve patient communication at the end of life. The successful applicant who contributes well will be rewarded with co-authorship on any resulting publications. There may be opportunities to develop and extend this topic area into further projects suitable for honours, masters or PhD work.</p>		