

Afterhours Palliative Care Services in the Community

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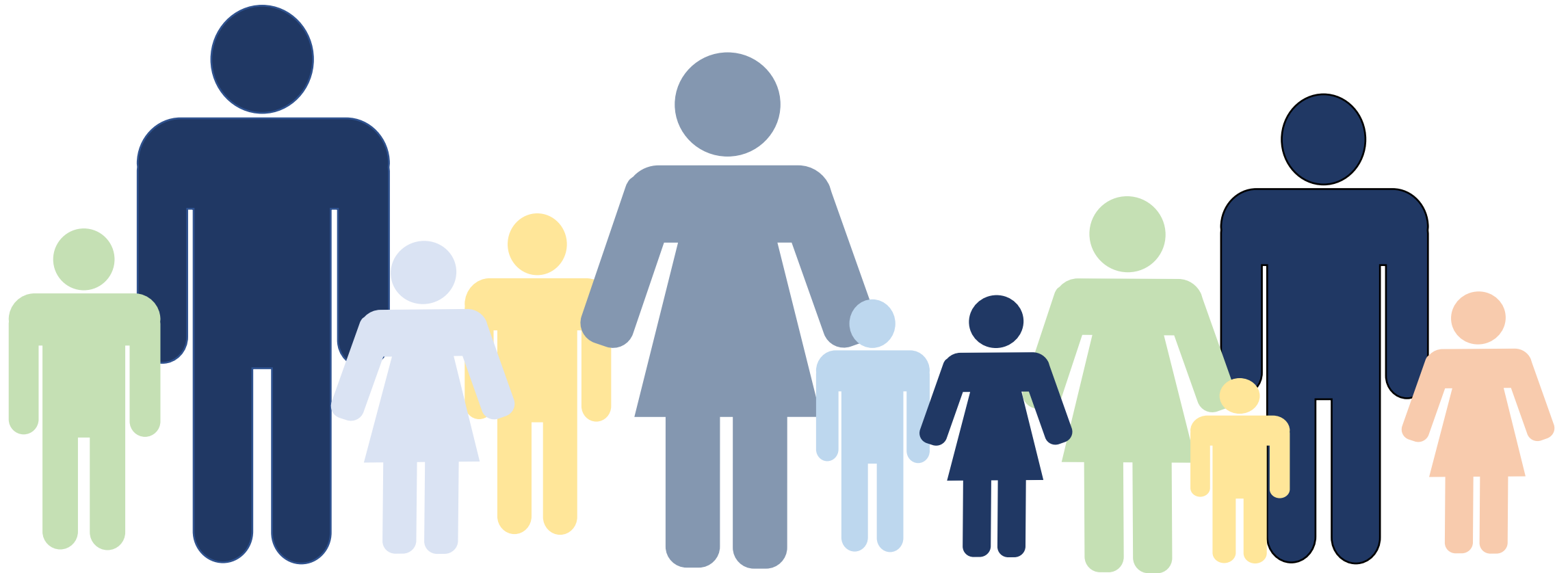
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What do Patients and Family Caregivers Value in Afterhours Palliative Care Services in the Community? A Review of the Research Literature



Background & Objectives

Integrating patients' and family caregivers' perspectives can contribute to the key direction of afterhours palliative care service provision.

From a research perspective, little is known about what patients and family caregivers value in afterhours palliative care services or their preferences and expectations.

Research Aim

To review and identify:

What patients and family caregivers valued in afterhours palliative care services in the community setting.



Methods & Approach

Systematic search & review.

Databases: MEDLINE, PsycINFO, Embase, Emcare, PubMed, CINAHL and Web of Science.

Search terms: palliative care, afterhours, cooperative, community, service.

Research papers published over the period January 2010 to July 2020.

Criteria: patient's, family's, carer's perspectives/experiences.

Two reviewers independently screened the title, abstract and full-text of papers based on pre-determined eligibility criteria. Disagreements were resolved through discussion using a third reviewer. Reference list searches of included papers were undertaken.

Analysis & synthesis: manifest content analysis reported in a descriptive way.



Results



Out of 692 articles, seven studies were included.



Data were generated from 411 patients & family caregivers.

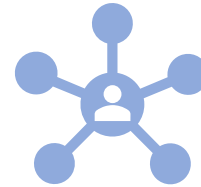
Key Findings

Symptoms management



Fulfilling care wishes

Interpersonal skills



Expert consultation

Continuity of care (management and information)

Availability and accessibility to medication and resources



Safety

Minimising futile treatment



Knowledge of services (knowing who and when)

Conclusion

Patients and family caregivers values is important. Seeking out and understanding what is important to the patients and family caregivers help to inform the design and planning of afterhours palliative care services in the community.

Their values need to be identified and outcome measures applied to assess the extent to which these expectations are being met.

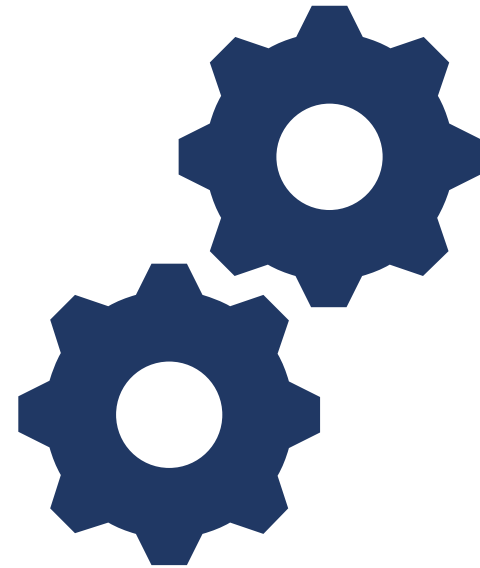
Future direction

More research work is needed to ascertain patients and family caregivers values and priorities in delivering afterhours palliative care services in the community.

This research identified the lack of studies, involving patients and family caregivers, reported in professional research level.

Future study:

- How to engage end-users (patients, family caregivers, healthcare providers and other stakeholders) to design and plan for afterhours services.
- To implement co-design in the development of afterhours palliative care services.



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