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Pediatric Oncology Palliative Care Newsletter

Resources

POGO Palliative web page

<http://www.pogo.ca/care/ppcn.asp>

Conferences --- Education

The Canadian Hospice
Palliative Care Association
2005 National Conference
<http://www.chpca.net>

At **CHEO** in Ottawa, the Palliative Care Team functions as a collaborative partnership with the oncology team in order to provide well-coordinated palliative care to the oncology patients.

The CHEO Palliative Care Team meets every two weeks to review all CHEO palliative patients, including oncology. The palliative team includes the nurse manager, three palliative physicians who work part time with the program, two Interlink nurses, an ethicist, one social worker, one chaplain, the volunteer coordinator and a parent representative.

All oncology patients at CHEO are followed by one of two **Interlink nurses** who follow patients throughout the continuum of care, including throughout the palliative care phase.

Marilyn Cassidy

Kingston General Hospital is in the process of creating a Collaborative Care Plan for Pediatric Oncology patients. This will be a joint effort between the in hospital staff, clinic staff, and community partners in an effort to facilitate continuity of care for the child and family. *Patty Jansen*

The central west region of the province includes the regions of **Halton, Hamilton-Wentworth, Niagara, Haldimand-Norfolk and Wellington-Dufferin**. The **Interlink nurse** serving this area has been working towards establishing partnerships with the community to assist in the provision of palliative care for children in their homes who choose to die at home. To this end, links have been established with the Palliative Pain and Symptom Management Co-coordinators that exist in each of the regions served. These co-coordinators are Registered Nurses with a wealth of experience and resources provide palliative care in the community. They work together to improve the organization and delivery of pediatric end of life care in these regions.

At **McMaster Children's Hospital**, work has begun to develop a booklet to give to parents and families as a guide to end of life care.

Claire O'Halloran and Jane Cassano

Rouge Valley Centenary has recently formed an interdisciplinary Palliative Care and Bereavement Committee to address the needs of patients and families receiving care at the Satellite Centre. This committee has been meeting monthly since June and has begun to address role descriptions, models of care, policy development, and links with community partners.

Yvette Dalrymple

Credit Valley Hospital in Mississauga has established a multidisciplinary Pediatric Palliative Care Committee. The committee is presently developing a model of service at the tertiary, regional, and community levels to facilitate continuity of care for the child and family; reviewing systems, roles, responsibilities, communication and coordination of care. The committee plans to meet every 2 months excluding July and August. In May 2004, the Satellite Clinic Coordinator and a staff nurse attended The End Of Life nursing education course in Duarte, California sponsored by APON.

Anna Geraldes

Developing a Pediatric Palliative Care Network

See attached summary of the work to date and ongoing tasks of this group.

In January 2005, **The Waterloo Region Paediatric Hospice Palliative Care Committee** developed terms of reference to expand a network for Paediatric Hospice Palliative Care in the Waterloo Region. The group, which meets six times per year, excluding July and August, has identified gaps and opportunities within the community. The committee has been working on a variety of communication and coordination strategies to assist in developing a streamline palliative care program in the region.

Presently in the Waterloo Region all paediatric referrals for palliative care from the tertiary centre and CCAC are referred directly to the Children's Out-patient Clinic allowing paediatricians who provide 24/7 coverage to manage both oncological and non-oncological diseases. Also there is a protocol in place for the nurse to pronounce an expected death in the home. Newly developed forms for palliative consultation and referral have been reviewed in draft only. Waterloo Region has an informal agreement for paramedics/emergency staff to honor signed DNR orders (DNR/validity form, MOHLTC).

In March 2005 the committee attended a presentation by Nancy Murray, Education Coordinator, CCAC of Waterloo Region on "Advanced Care Planning." This informative presentation discussed legislation, advance care planning and specifics related to paediatrics around DNR/Validity Order Forms and ethical considerations. The group will recommence meetings in September.

Patti Bambury