



Palliative and End of Life Care Research Group

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

The Palliative and End of Life Care Research Group is a cross-faculty group of research active academics, clinicians and students from The University of Sheffield. The group was established in 2021 to bring together staff from across the Faculty of Health with an interest in palliative and end of life care (PEOLC) research.

Purpose / role of the group:

In partnership with patients and the public, we conduct a portfolio of robust, patient-centred, policy-relevant research focused on understanding the whole palliative care journey and improving care for the people of Sheffield and beyond.

Our research addresses key current challenges in palliative and end of life care by:

- Conducting collaborative, inter-disciplinary research that is co-produced with patients and members of the public.
- Building new knowledge through a breadth of methodological and subject expertise.
- Using high quality evidence to inform clinical practice and policy in palliative and end of life care nationally and internationally.
- Innovating in public engagement by working alongside local communities to actively involve all stakeholders in palliative and end of life care.

Membership:

Any staff member or postgraduate student from the Faculty of Health at the University of Sheffield, with an interest in palliative and end of life care research, can join the group. Members of staff and students from other Faculties, and honorary staff, may join at the discretion of the Group Leads. External individuals may be invited to attend group meetings on an ad hoc basis, for example to deliver invited presentations.

Working Methods and Meetings:

The Research Group meet on-line every four months. The Group Leads will organise these meetings and an agenda for each meeting will be circulated via email prior to the meeting. Group meetings provide an opportunity to discuss ongoing research, scope out new ideas, engage in scholarly discussion, seek out collaborators, highlight funding opportunities and relevant conferences, and discuss PPI. Group members may suggest external speakers to present on topics of interest. Minutes are taken and are shared after each meeting. Meetings typically last one hour.

In addition to the on-line meetings, regular communications are sent by e-mail and PEOLC group members will be added to a research group mailing list 'palliative-group@sheffield.ac.uk'. Researchers can opt out of joining the mailing list at any time by contacting one of the Group Leads.

Website:

The Research Group website can be found at www.sheffield.ac.uk/palliativeresearch.

Group members are encouraged to take an active role in providing updates for the website and informing Group Leads about new publications or studies which could be included.

Patient and Public Involvement (PPI):

The Research Group work closely with the Palliative Care Studies Advisory Group, a PPI group based in Sheffield. Group members are encouraged to utilise the expertise of this group in any research activity, and ensure a PPI approach is central to all PEOLC research conducted at The University of Sheffield. Group members are encouraged to attend a minimum of one PCSAG meeting per year. Further details of the PCSAG can be found [here](#).

Accountability and review:

Professor Clare Gardiner is currently the Research Group Lead. Dr Catriona Mayland and Dr Paul Taylor are Deputy Group Leads. Group Lead and Deputy Leads will organise and chair meetings. Any issues or complaints should be directed to Clare Gardiner, Catriona Mayland, Paul Taylor or to Prof Jenny Thomson, Director of Research at the School of Allied Health, Nursing & Midwifery. E-mail: j.m.thomson@sheffield.ac.uk. These terms of reference will be reviewed every three years.

Contact:

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