

Developing Culturally Sensitive Palliative Care Guidelines for Muslim In-Patients in Tertiary Hospitals in Ghana

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Abstract:

Introduction: Effective healthcare must consider patients' religious backgrounds, particularly in palliative care, where spiritual values are integral. Muslims represent 19.9% of Ghana's population, yet evidence highlights a gap in appropriate palliative care for this group. Globally, 56.8 million individuals require palliative care yearly, but only 14% receive it.

Aim: This study aims to develop palliative care guidelines tailored to Muslims in Ghana. It involves assessing the perceptions and needs of Muslim in-patients and their caregivers, the role of Imams in care decisions, and healthcare providers' willingness to adopt religiously sensitive practices. A scoping review will identify gaps in palliative care literature, and stakeholder consensus will inform the guidelines.

Methods: Using a multi-method approach across three tertiary hospitals, Phase 1 involves an exploratory qualitative design to assess stakeholder needs. Phase 2 conducts a scoping review of relevant literature, while Phase 3 employs the Delphi Technique to achieve expert consensus. A pragmatism philosophy underpins this research, focusing on practical solutions to enhance care.

Significance: The findings may lead to religiously sensitive palliative care guidelines, influencing healthcare training, policy development, and care strategies to improve outcomes for Muslims in Ghana.

Keywords:

Caregivers, Ghana, Guidelines, Imams, Muslim in-patients, Palliative care.