**Abstract 3 - Domiciliary Care**

**Title: Improving end of life care at home provided by Domiciliary Teams using the GSF Domiciliary Care Programme.**

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**Aims:**

Domiciliary care workers (DCWs) play an important role in supporting people to remain at home as they near the end of life, especially those with dementia and frailty. Despite this, DCWs contributions frequently go unrecognised, and few receive specific training in end of life care. Focussed training enables DCWs to improve the quality of care provided for people who choose to remain at home and promotes better co-ordinated cross boundary care.

**Method:**

The GSF Domiciliary Care training programme in End of Life Care focuses on enabling generalist frontline staff in end of life competencies. The Train-the-Trainer cascade programme works with Domiciliary care Agency trainers using action based, interactive learning and reflective practice in 6 modules, accompanied by the GSF virtual learning zone, animations and resources. Comparative before and after qualitative and quantitative evaluation is intrinsic. We present an evaluation of progress of several teams using GSF training in end of life care, some delivered by hospices.

**Results:**

Homecare workers in various areas of the country show improvements in

* Confidence and competence of home care staff
* Communication, working relationships and collaboration with Primary care
* More Advance Care Planning discussions with service users
* Encouragement and empowerment of staff to advocate for their service users resulting in improved communications with other professionals
* Increased awareness of the knowledge they already possessed and future training needs

**Conclusion:**

This highlights the important role that DCWs play, and the importance of empowering care staff who interact with the service users daily.

The GSF Domiciliary Care Training Programme boosts the confidence and competence of care workers, improves collaboration and coordination with others and helps to improve care for more people nearing the end of life at home - which is for most the best place to be.

(Characters – 1805)