

**Abstract**

**Original Article**

## Opinions of Nurses about Palliative Care

**Gulcan Bahcecioglu Turan, PhD**

Research Assistant, Ataturk University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Internal Medicine Nursing, Erzurum, Turkey

**Talip Mankan, PhD**

Lect. Asst. Firat University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Nursing, Elazig, Turkey

**Hilal Polat, PhD**

Lect. Asst. Firat University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Nursing, Elazig, Turkey

**Correspondence:** Gulcan Bahcecioglu Turan, Res. Asst. Ataturk University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Internal Medicine Nursing, Erzurum, Turkey E-mail: glcnbah@hotmail.com

**Abstract**

**Objectives:** Nurses play an important role in palliative care services. Therefore, further studies are needed in Turkey to investigate nurses' views on the subject. Based on this, it's aimed to determine nurses' level of knowledge about palliative care, increase their sensitivity and awareness, and to perform training activity planning in this regard.

**Methods:** The study population consisted of nurses working at Firat University Medical Hospital and Elazig Training and Research Hospital located in the Province of Elazig No sampling was performed, and the 500 nurses who agreed to participate in the research was included in the study. The data collection was performed between February and March 2016 in the study. A "Personal Information Form" developed by the researchers and "Expressions of Opinion about Palliative Care Scale" was used for data collection. Evaluation of the data; number and percentage analysis are used.

**Results:** It was found that, the majority of the nurses surveyed (50.6%) was 30 years of age or older, the majority was female (73.4%) and has a bachelor degree (49.2%), and most of them (35.4%) was working at the profession for 10 years and over. Of the nurses, 80.8% said that definition of the palliative care is "to improve the quality of life of the individual in the terminal period". And, 69.8% of the nurses stated that palliative care aims to "improve the quality of life of the individual"; 88.6% stated that mostly the patients in the terminal stage benefit from the palliative care services, 80.6% stated that palliative care services can be provided in the hospital, and more than half of them stated that should be a nurse, doctor, physiotherapist and psychologist in a palliative care team.

**Conclusions:** It was found that the majority of the nurses were not knowledgeable about the palliative care, define palliative care as "improving the quality of life of the individual in the terminal period", and expressed that palliative care covers the services offered to cancer patients in the terminal phase.

**Keywords:** Nurse, Education, Palliative care