Research in Belfast Hospice

The role of the Research Nurse

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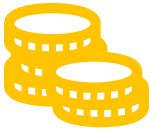
Marie Curie leads the way in palliative and end of life care research

We **FUND** research



We **DELIVER** research

We **ENABLE** research

We **INVOLVE** people to shape research

We **USE** research to **DRIVE CHANGE**

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We support research that aligns with our thematic priority areas

To provide quality care and support for the **mental and physical health and wellbeing** of people affected by dying, death and bereavement.

To end **financial insecurity at end of life** and ensure that everyone has the support they need to address their practical concerns.

To ensure that everyone affected by death and dying – including the **family, friends and carers** of the dying person – are supported through and beyond the end of life.

To **end inequity in end of life** experience by ensuring access to excellent standards of care and support for all.

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Research Active Hospices

Barriers to research engagement in hospices (2013)

- Access to allocated research staff
- Supportive clinical leader
- Lack of protected time
- Access to information and research training
- Collaboration and networks
- Governance, policies and procedures
- And others….

Model of working

- Introduced in Northern Ireland 2021

- Embedded within clinical team
- Working alongside Policy and Public Affairs team
- Supported by an academic mentor

- Central research governance
- Local capacity & capability assessments

Why clinical staff in a research role?

- Communication skills
- Clinically competent
- Insider vs. outsider (relationships)
- Bridge between practice and academia
- Protected time for research

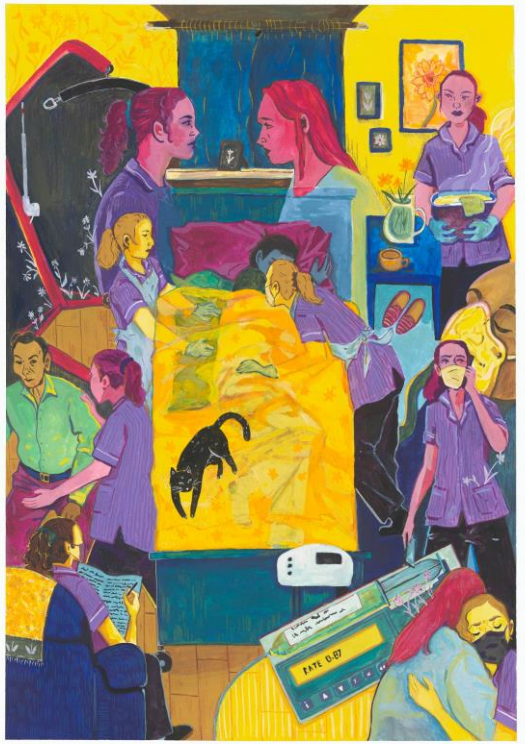
Research projects in our hospice

Ulster University

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

James Lind Alliance

Priority Setting Partnerships



Outcomes of the Research Nurse role

- Development of a research culture in hospices
- Effective practitioner focussed dissemination
- Practitioner engagement with evidence use, production and dissemination
- Research delivery and links with academic institutions and PPI partners
- Research Nurses as nurse researchers

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Challenges

It's not a sprint –it's an ultramarathon!

- Building research culture in hospices
- Managing various responsibilities and collaborations
- Research Governance
- Expansion of Research Nurse role
- Developing academic skills to become independent nurse researchers

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Conclusion

Our model of working has proven successful across Marie Curie and could be adopted in other palliative care settings.

Thank you

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