Letting Go of Non-Beneficial Treatments: Show Me the Evidence

Margaret L. Campbell, PhD, RN, FPCN, Professor, College of Nursing at Wayne State University

Session Description and Objectives: Description: In this session symptoms common among patients approaching the end of life will be identified. Treatments that lack an evidence base will be discussed with alternatives proposed. Objectives: Identify non-beneficial or equivocal palliative care treatments that are in common use. Describe the strengths, limitations, and gaps in the evidence for treating dyspnea, death rattle, and nausea.

Margaret L. Campbell, PhD, RN, FPCN

Dr. Campbell is a Professor – Research in the Office of Health Research in the College of Nursing at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. Dr. Campbell received her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Nursing from Wayne State University and her PhD in Nursing from the University of Michigan. She has been a member of the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association since 2001 and was the President in 2009.

She had an inpatient palliative care clinical practice for more than 25 years before obtaining a research faculty appointment. Dr. Campbell conducts clinical research to assess and treat dyspnea among patients with advanced disease and the end of life. She developed the Respiratory Distress Observation Scale (RDOS), the only known valid and reliable tool for measuring respiratory distress when the patient cannot self-report dyspnea. She has conducted dyspnea intervention studies using the RDOS and has had NIH and foundation funding.