

# Challenges of conducting research in palliative care social work

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# The role of social workers in palliative, end of life and bereavement care

‘To provide evidence about the impact of palliative care social work’

APCSW (2016)

# Core competencies of palliative care social work

- ▶ ‘palliative care social workers should use an evidence base in their professional development and contribute to research’
- ▶ ‘palliative care social workers should possess knowledge of research methodologies appropriate to palliative care and of ethical guidelines in research’

Hughes et al. (2015)

# Evidence

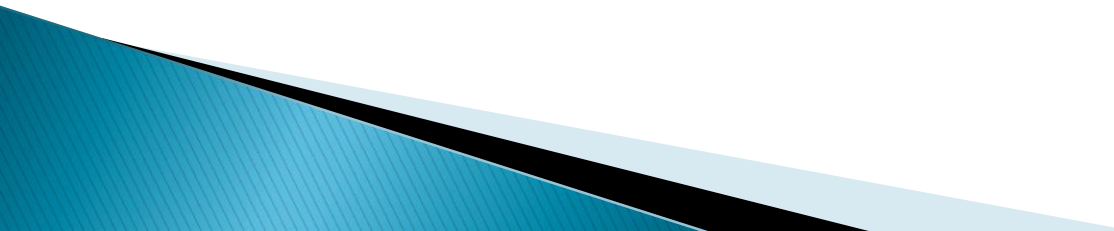


# Challenges

- ▶ ‘Palliative care research is by definition concerned with a sick patient group who are going to get sicker’

Addington-Hall (2007)

# Challenges

- ▶ Too ill to participate
  - ▶ Attrition
  - ▶ Gate keeping
  - ▶ Impact of illness on data collection
  - ▶ Heterogeneous population
  - ▶ Impact on the researcher
  - ▶ Quality of life is subjective
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# Ethical issues

- ▶ Vulnerable group
  - ▶ Cognitive impairment and reduced capacity
  - ▶ Susceptible to coercion
  - ▶ Captive audience
  - ▶ No benefit to participants v. altruism
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