

# European *Certificate* in Essential Palliative Care

The majority of healthcare professionals working in hospitals and the community look after patients with palliative care needs on a regular basis.

The European Certificate in Essential Palliative Care (ECEPC) is aimed at helping those professionals consolidate and develop their palliative care confidence and expertise, in accordance with the End of Life Care Strategy 2008. The course is designed to meet the needs of healthcare professionals new to specialist palliative care services who wish to establish strong foundations of knowledge on which to build specialist knowledge and skills. It is suitable for professionals who have direct contact with patients requiring a palliative approach and care.

The course is an eight week distance learning, multi-professional programme, covering:

What is palliative care and who is it for?	Symptom issues in palliative care
Patients with emergency conditions	Patients in the last 48 hours of life
Breaking bad news to patients and families	Bereavement and support
Common ethical issues	

The course was developed at Princess Alice Hospice in 2001. It is now offered at a range of sites both nationally and internationally – including The Hospice of St Francis, Berkhamsted.

The fee for the course is £450.

For the dates of the next course please contact [education@stfrancis.org.uk](mailto:education@stfrancis.org.uk) or visit <http://www.pah.org.uk/pa-course/ecepc/>



# Information for Prospective candidates



## Course information

Candidates are invited to an optional introductory evening at The Hospice of St Francis

## Course resources:

Candidates will receive the Course Handbook containing the core text material. Candidates will also have access to the Princess Alice Hospice virtual learning environment – [learningzone.pah.org.uk](http://learningzone.pah.org.uk) and be allocated a facilitator who will support them through their portfolio submission. The facilitators are experienced practitioners in specialist palliative care, who will be available by email or telephone.

## Assessment

Candidates undertake three different forms of assessment; a pass is required in each of the sections.

**Portfolio** – each candidate will complete a portfolio, involving critical reflection, based on a patient they have cared for with palliative care needs. It will include the effects it had on both a personal and professional level. The portfolio should be supported by literature and demonstrate how the learning will influence future care. It will be 2,000 words (2,500 if pursuing Master's level academic credit.)

**Written examination** – There will be a one hour examination, which will include short true / false questions covering the principles of palliative care explored in the Course Handbook. There will be an additional short written paper of four questions on common opioid dose conversions.

**Practical / oral assessment** – The final element will be a short oral assessment exploring the knowledge and skills developed during the course.

**On successful completion of the assessments candidates will be awarded the Princess Alice Hospice European Certificate of Essential Palliative Care.**

## How long is the course?

This is an eight-week course which can be carried out at a distance from the chosen site. Please note however, attendance at the local site assessment day is mandatory. It is recommended you carry out around 50 hours personal study, but this will vary depending on previous experience of palliative care.

## Where does the course run?

The course is centrally run by Princess Alice Hospice in Esher but the Hertfordshire local site is run by The Hospice of St Francis, Berkhamsted.

## Funding?

External funding opportunities may be available for hospice and Hertfordshire community staff.

Please contact [education@stfrancis.org.uk](mailto:education@stfrancis.org.uk) for more information.

## To book a place based at The Hospice of St Francis or for more information contact:

01442 869566

[education@stfrancis.org.uk](mailto:education@stfrancis.org.uk)

For information about other sites, please contact 01372 461858

[europeanecertificate@pah.org.uk](mailto:europeanecertificate@pah.org.uk)

## Dates for Spring 2018:

Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 to Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018

## Dates for Autumn 2018:

Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018

## Dates for Spring 2019:

To be confirmed