



Abstract Review

Abstract Basic Information

Submission Type	Title	Number
Social Work Practice	Beyond One Banner: End-of-Life Care Disparities and Intervention Strategies for Patients of Diverse Asian and Asian American Communities	23-0069
Presentation Type	Level	Agree to Guidelines
Practice Intensive	Intermediate	Yes
Conference Objectives	Clinical Practice and Research, Diversity, Ethics, Leadership	
Primary Key Words	Secondary Key Words	
Pain, Palliative Care and End of Life	Special Populations	

Abstract Body

This interactive and didactic presentation will focus on identifying the disparities in delivering effective end-of-life (EOL) care for patients in the Asian and Asian American (AAA) community including the areas of effective advance care planning and hospice enrollment, explore clinical considerations for several AAA communities, and make recommendations to optimize psychosocial support for AAA patients and their families when facing EOL. This will be structured in two parts: 1) An introduction to define the AAA communities and provide historical and cultural contexts that result in disparities in EOL Care, and 2) Discussion of effective intervention strategies targeted to specific AAA communities, via small groups, vignette exercises, and panel discussion.

Part One will focus on AAA population and disparities in EOL care. As a patient population, AAA are not well studied and their needs are not well understood despite AAA being the only ethnic group in the United States whose leading cause of death is cancer and not heart disease (Lee et al., 2021). Asian patients made up only 1.5% of Medicare hospice patients in the United States and a study on multiple Asian American groups found that the rate of completed Advanced Directives designating a health agent was about two to three times lower than that of the general older population, which ranged between 54.3% and 66% (Chi et al., 2018; Rhee & Jang, 2020). We will identify the root of EOL disparities by examining common myths and misperceptions that providers may have when working with AAA families such as the model minority myth and the perceptions of the lack of health literacy in AAA people. Additionally, we will explore AAA patients' misconception of the role of pain management in EOL care (Ragesh et al., 2017).

Part Two of this presentation will focus on advancing the knowledge of oncology social workers (OSWs) by engaging the group in interactive discussion of the unique EOL needs in specific ethnic communities.



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Despite the diversity of this population, AAA people are often treated as monolithic, and cultural differences are routinely disregarded. Understanding the cultural nuances within this community prepares OSWs to provide person-centered, culturally sensitive EOL care among AAA patients. Representing diverse practice settings, regions of the country, and ethnic backgrounds, the presenters will incorporate unique perspectives as Asian-identified OSWs supporting AAA families facing cancer. Specifically, we will focus our discussions around the Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Taiwanese, Vietnamese, Filipino and Indian/South Asian communities. We will primarily draw findings from literature review of evidence-based research, discuss common cultural themes, and explore clinical considerations specific to each community. The presenters will identify the significance of: the family system in EOL care, the role of spirituality, stigmatization of seeking psychosocial support, and mistrust for medical providers (Mori et al., 2017). By the end of this presentation, participants will have more awareness of the cultural barriers that perpetuate the gaps in EOL care and be equipped to conduct culturally tailored assessment and interventions to improve EOL care in AAA communities.

References

- Chi, H. I., Cataldo, J., Ho, E.T., & Rehm, R. (2018). Please ask gently: Using culturally targeted communication strategies to initiate end-of-life care discussions with older Chinese Americans. *American Journal of Hospice & Palliative Medicine*, 1-8. <https://doi.org/10.11.77/1049909118760310>
- Lee, R.J., Madan, R.A., Kim, J., Posadas, E.M. and Yu, E.Y. (2021). Disparities in Cancer Care and the Asian American Population. *The Oncol*, 26: 453-460. <https://doi.org/10.1002/onco.13748>
- Mori M, Kuwama Y, Ashikaga T, Parsons HA, Miyashita M (2018). Acculturation and perceptions of a good death among japanese americans and japanese living in the U.S. *Journal of pain and symptom management*.01/2018;55(1):31-38. doi: 10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2017.08.010.
- Ragesh, G., Zacharias, L., & Thomas, P. T. (2017). Palliative Care Social Work In India: Current Status and Future Directions. *Indian journal of palliative care*, 23(1), 93–99. <https://doi.org/10.4103/0973-1075.197949>
- Rhee M. K., Jang Y. (2020). Factors associated with designation of a substitute decision-maker in older Asian Americans: The role of cultural factors. *The International Journal of Aging and Human Development*, 91(1), 21–36. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.baylor.edu/10.1177/0091415019848211>

Agree to AOSW Scholarly References Requirement Procedures: Yes

Presents Preliminary Findings: No



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Comments

A few of us presented on improving service delivery to Asian/Asian American community at the 2022 annual conference. This presentation aims to further advance the knowledge-base of OSWs by taking a deep dive into the diversity and nuances that exist within sub-communities with a particular focus on End-of-Life care delivery.

Educational Information

Presentation Designation Cultural Competency
Instructional Methods Lecture, Discussion, Case Examples, Multimedia

Learning Objectives

- Objective 1** Participants will learn the historical and cultural context of diverse Asian and Asian American experience and understand at least three inter-cultural and inter-group differences in order to conduct more culturally attuned assessment when working with patients at End-of-Life
- Objective 2** Participants will identify at least three End-of-Life disparities faced by Asian and Asian American patients and families, and three intervention strategies enabling improved access to appropriate EOL care among this population
- Objective 3** Participants will develop better understanding of Asian and Asian American clinician experience during End-of-Life discussions and learn at least two ways to better support colleagues including social workers, nurses, physicians and other care team members

Reflects Current Materials:

Theories and concepts of human behavior in the social environment, Social work clinical practice, Social work generalist practice, Social work ethics

Practice Area:

Knowledge base, Engagements/relationship building, Assessment, Intervention/treatment

Other:

This abstract applies to work with:

Individuals, Families, Groups, Communities

Which current social issues in social work practice are addressed in this abstract:

Diversity, cultural, linguistic competencies, multiculturalism, Social work values and ethics, Assessment, diagnosis and treatment of specific populations

How are the practice areas addressed

Previously mentioned practice areas will be addressed through vignette exercises, case studies, panel discussions, and interactive small group discussions and activities. Additionally, there will be opportunity for personal reflection and discussion of counter transference's role in clinical practice.



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If applicable, briefly describe abstract content relating to *professional activities* involving direct services to clients, and/or social work practice with individuals, families and/or groups (direct practice, clinical practice).

We will be discussing various professional activities that involve direct services to our clients. Some of which include: 1) assessment with diverse Asians/Asian American communities in preparing for EOL; 2) incorporating cultural considerations when conducting biopsychosocial assessment; 3) developing person-centered, culturally sensitive intervention; 4) utilizing systems theory approach to understand historical contexts and 5) advocacy efforts for Asians/Asian American patients in accessing appropriate EOL care.

If applicable, briefly describe abstract content relating to areas of *social work practice* not involving immediate or personal contact with clients being served, and/or professional activities other than direct practice to individuals, families and/or groups (indirect, non-clinical practice).

As social workers, we have a duty and ethical responsibility to practice with cultural competence and seek efforts to demonstrate “understanding of culture and its function in human behavior and society” (National Association of Social Workers [NASW], 2022). This presentation aims to provide clinical insight into EOL life care for specific ethnic groups and recognize Asian Americans are not a monolith. Furthermore, we hope to provide tools and resources to ensure that social workers engage in appropriate intervention techniques to address EOL disparities within these communities.

Additional Information

Relevancy to SIGs

Ethics, Pain, Palliative, & End of Life, Patient Navigation, Spirituality

Previous AOSW Presentation

Yes

How many?

1

Presentation at other conferences

Yes

Which

National Conference, Local/Community Event, University/Hospital/Clinic, Other

Has this data been previously presented or accepted for presentation at another conference?

(Please specify)

No



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Abstract Summary (for conference program)

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