

End-of-Life Care and Resident Comfort in LTC: Perceptions of Bereaved Caregivers

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Canadian Frailty Network

Réseau canadien des soins aux personnes fragilisées

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BACKGROUND

- Little is known about the aspects of end-of-life (EOL) care that are perceived as important by bereaved caregivers of residents who spend the end of their lives in long-term care (LTC) homes

RESEARCH TOPIC

- This study seeks to expand upon the efforts being made to support resident comfort in LTC homes by determining what aspects of EOL care are associated with a caregiver's perceptions of a 'good' resident death

METHODOLOGY

- 78 caregivers of residents who died in one of five Canadian LTC homes completed two questionnaires regarding their experiences with the EOL care provided in their respective LTC home within one year of the resident's passing

KEY FINDINGS

- Caregivers reported high levels of resident comfort and that they had positive experiences with EOL care in LTC
- Staff communication and resident care were two aspects that caregiver considered as critical to residents' comfort at the EOL

CONCLUSION

- This study highlights the important role that staff communication and resident care play in supporting positive bereavement experiences for caregivers
- LTC staff have the potential to enhance caregivers' perceptions of a positive resident death by keeping them informed and providing good resident care