

# A message from your Palliative Care Resource Team

July, 2025



## How is equity related to palliative care?

### Health Equity impacts Yukoners in all stages of illness

In their 2023 report Access to Palliative Care in Canada, the Canadian Institute for Health Information asserted that while they do not collect all the data themselves, research has shown that characteristics such as race, religion and language impact access to palliative care in Canada.<sup>1</sup> The report also identifies other barriers such as being from a First Nation community, being a new immigrant to Canada or experiencing homelessness.

Findings from The Canadian Pain Task Force Report - Chronic Pain in Canada: Laying a Foundation for Action, compound the problem as there is significant overlap in barriers in access to palliative care and increased symptom burden. Their report states; "The burden of chronic pain is not shared equally among Canadians. It is more common among older adults, females, Indigenous Peoples, Veterans, and populations affected by social inequities and discrimination".<sup>2</sup>

The Palliative Care Resource Team (PCRT) aims to support Yukon health care providers in their efforts to decrease barriers to palliative care. The PCRT has collected tools and resources that may support Yukon health care providers (HCPs) working to identify and potentially address access and equity in their roles and organizations.

### In this issue:

- Equity in Access to Palliative Care
- What is Equity Oriented Palliative Care
- Tools and Resources from EQUIP Health Care
- Palliative Care Courses
- Volunteer with Nav-Care
- Hospice Yukon Events

### Important Dates:

- July 24—National Self-Care Day  
 September 30—National Truth and Reconciliation Day / Orange Shirt Day  
 October—Breast Cancer Awareness Month  
 October—World Hospice and Palliative Care Day

## Key Dimensions of Equity-Oriented Care



# What is Equity Oriented Palliative Care?

**A key step health care providers can take is to learn about how equity oriented palliative care relates to their work.**

To meet the holistic needs of clients and families facing life limiting illness, Yukon health care providers must understand and work to address the impacts of equity.<sup>3</sup>

Healthcare Excellence Canada (HEC) explains that although most definitions of palliative care describe a person-centred approach, “the underlying social, economic, cultural structures that create and perpetuate health inequities are often overlooked.”<sup>4</sup>

The PCRT invites health care providers to explore the HEC website to learn more: <https://www.healthcareexcellence.ca/en/what-we-do/all-programs/improving-equity-in-access-to-palliative-care/what-is-equity-oriented-palliative-care/>

*An equity-oriented definition of palliative care recognizes system barriers and seeks to address them to ensure access to high-quality and safe care.*

Health Care Excellence Canada

## What does equity-oriented palliative care mean to you?



Image from: <https://www.healthcareexcellence.ca/en/what-we-do/all-programs/improving-equity-in-access-to-palliative-care/what-is-equity-oriented-palliative-care/>

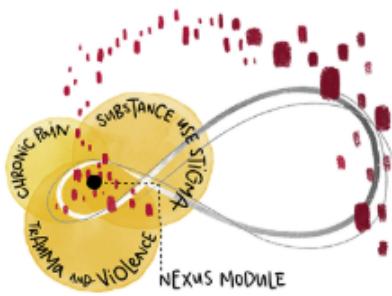
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# Explore Tools and Resources from EQUIP Health

**Health Care providers can find valuable tools and resources at [equiphealthcare.ca](http://equiphealthcare.ca)**

Equip Health Care is a research and implementation program. They are a partnership of diverse experts and knowledge keepers focused on “equipping” health care providers and organizations to better care for those experiencing structural inequalities which affect their health and wellbeing. Through various partnerships this work is shared freely. You will find they have shared projects, publications, organizational analysis tools and more. The PCRT encourages exploring which of EQUIP’s offerings are most relevant to you and your workplace. Please see below for a sampling of what’s available.

**The Nexus module** which is a freely available online and can be taken stand alone or as part of a three course series.



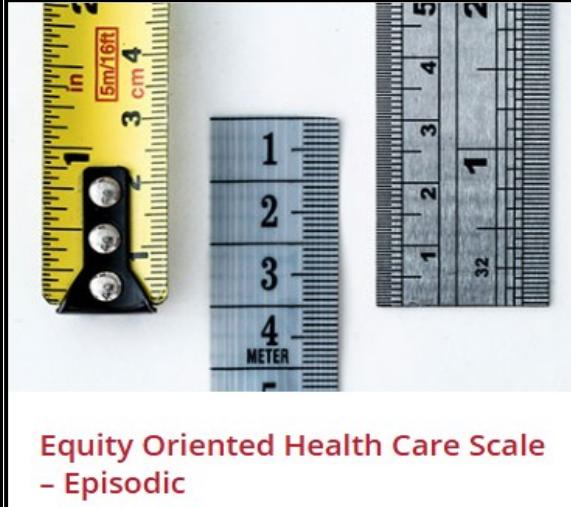
**Nexus Module - EQUIP Health Care**

This free e-learning education covers the nexus of chronic pain, trauma, violence, and substance use stigma. Nexus invites health care and social service providers to: The Nexus Module has 7 sections, with embedded videos, case-based activities, interactive quizzes, and links to further resources throughout. After completing unit 7, successfully completing a brief

[equiphealthcare.ca](http://equiphealthcare.ca)

**The Equity Walkthrough Exercise** <https://equiphealthcare.ca/resources/equity-walk-through/> which describes how you can “walkthrough” your workplace to understand client experience with an equity lens.

**The Equity Oriented Health Scales:** EQUIP has shared these brief [evaluation tools](#) as a way to have your clients tell you about their experience of equity when visiting your organization.



**Equity Oriented Health Care Scale – Episodic**

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## Free Public YG Learn Education Modules

- Introduction to Palliative Care in the Yukon: <https://yglearn.gov.yk.ca/palliative-care/3806>
- Providing Compassionate Care to Your Clients, Their Family Members, Your Coworkers, and Yourself: <https://yglearn.gov.yk.ca/marketplace/courses/3916#/>
- Caring for Ourselves When We Care for Others: <https://yglearn.gov.yk.ca/marketplace/courses/3942#/>
- Yukon Advance Care Planning: <https://yglearn.gov.yk.ca/palliative-care/3031>



**Become a Nav-CARE Volunteer**  
Making Connections, Making a Difference



## Upcoming at



- September - Living with Loss in-person
- November - Loss and Grief in the Workplace
- November - Living with Loss webinar
- December - Lights of Life

**Details at [www.hospiceyukon.net/events](http://www.hospiceyukon.net/events)**

## References

1. Canadian Institute for Health Information. Access to Palliative Care in Canada, 2023. Ottawa, ON: CIHI; 2023
2. Canada, Canadian Pain Task Force. (2019). *Chronic Pain in Canada: Laying a Foundation for Action*. Retrieved from the Canadian Government website: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/documents/corporate/about-health-canada/public-engagement/external-advisory-bodies/canadian-pain-task-force/report-2019/canadian-pain-task-force-June-2019-report-en.pdf>
3. Canadian Partnership Against Cancer & Health Canada. The Canadian Interdisciplinary Palliative Care Competency Framework. Toronto, ON: 2021.
4. Healthcare Excellence Canada . (2025, July 16). *What is Equity-Oriented Palliative Care?*. <https://www.healthcareexcellence.ca/en/what-we-do/all-programs/improving-equity-in-access-to-palliative-care/what-is-equity-oriented-palliative-care/>

# The Palliative Care Resource Team

**How does the Palliative Care Resource Team (PCRT) support Yukoners living with a life-limiting illness and the people caring for them?**

- We connect individuals to existing services and programs.
- We provide links to resources and information regarding a variety of topics, including: advance care planning and caregiver specific supports.
- We provide public education sessions.

**How does PCRT support Yukon health care providers?**

- We assist with health systems navigation.
- We support care transitions and discharge planning.
- We offer symptom management consultation.
- We link health care providers to best practice resources, tools and information.
- We facilitate and provide palliative care education for health care providers.

**For more information or to learn more connect with us:**

**Email: [palliativecare@yukon.ca](mailto:palliativecare@yukon.ca)**

**Phone: (867) 667-9380**

Stay tuned for an update to our website at  
<https://yukon.ca/en/palliative-care>