

Introduction

Oncology nurses play an integral part in the journey of a cancer patient. As the number of people with chronic diseases like cancer rises, there is an increased demand for palliative care. Palliative care is described as the expert management and assessment of pain and other symptoms related to a serious illness.

Oncology nurses provide palliative care to a large population of patients, but their role in providing palliative care is often uncertain. Researchers have shown that oncology nurses struggle with professional autonomy in their role, as well as several other barriers.

Background & Significance

- There will be more than 22.1 million cancer survivors in the United States by 2030.
- As the population of oncology patients increases, more healthcare personnel will be needed to provide palliative care.
- Palliative care nursing training varies widely in quality across the United States.
- Significant barriers oncology nurses experience while providing palliative care: lack of time, poor communication, and lack of knowledge.
- Nurses who are not familiar with palliative care are less likely to feel comfortable providing care for dying patients.
- Nurses who received training in palliative care displayed higher self-efficacy.

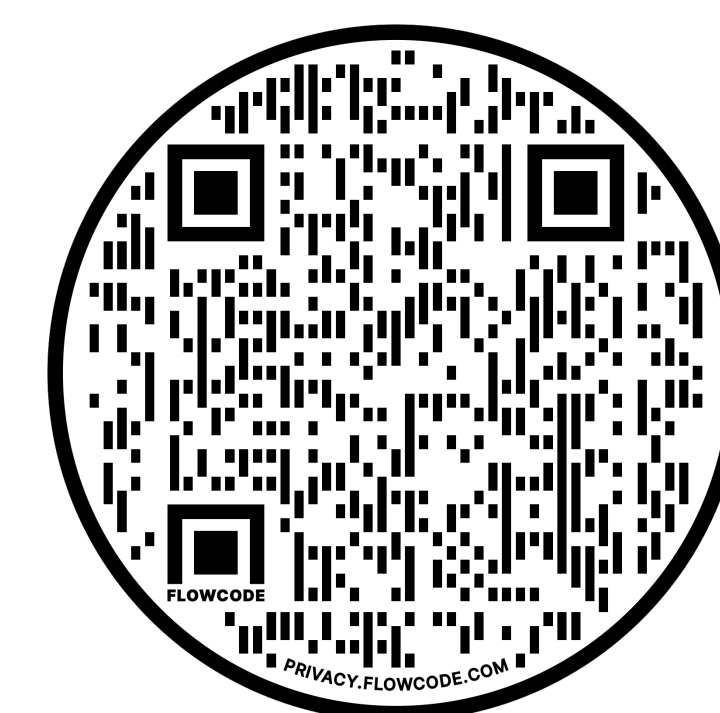
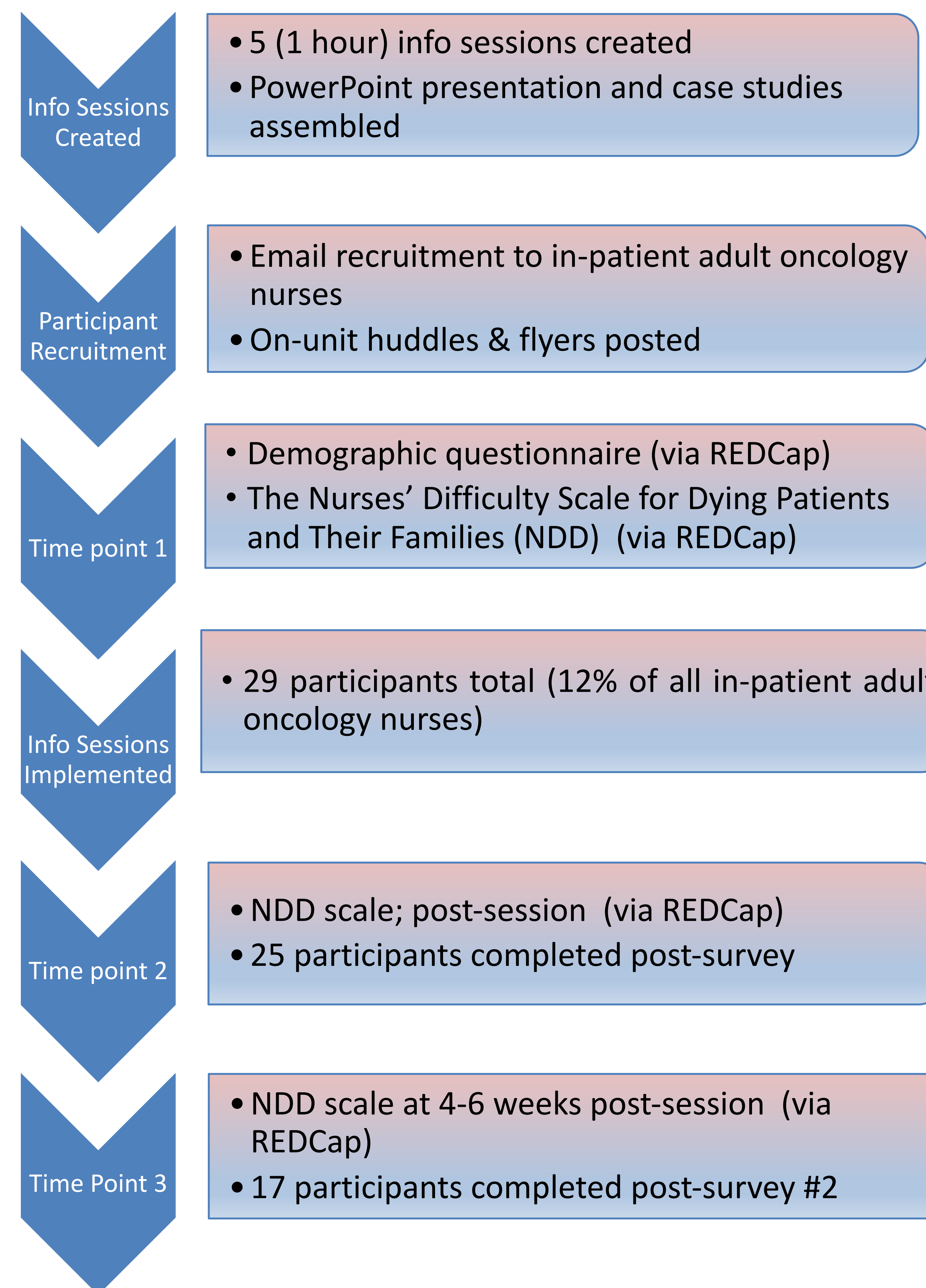
Clinical Question

How does an informational session impact oncology nurses' perceived difficulties in providing palliative care?

Aim

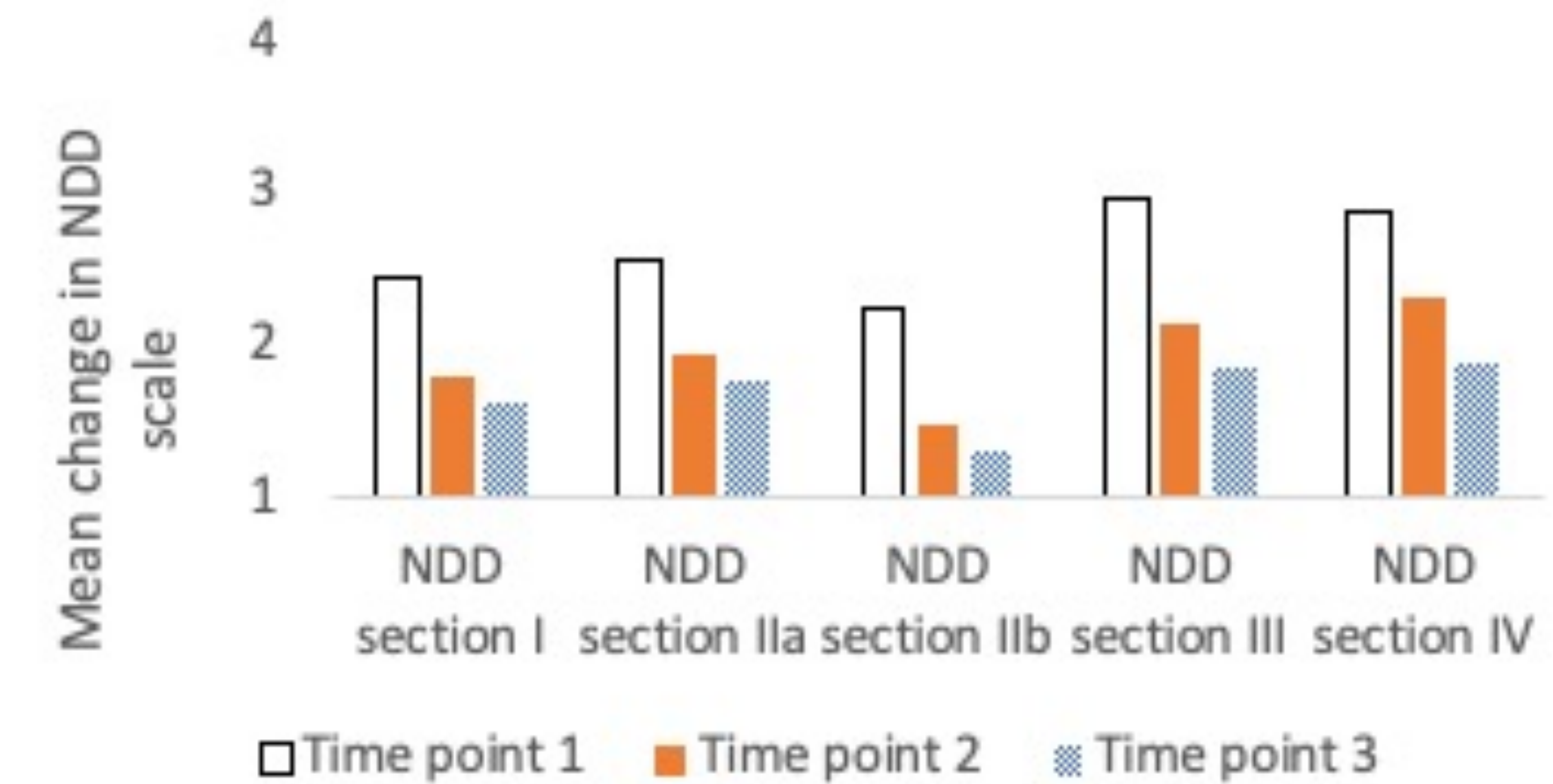
- To assess and measure oncology nurses' perceived difficulties in providing palliative care to adult oncology patients.

Methodology



Demographic Survey
&
NDD Scale

Results



*The reliability analysis displayed an issue with the internal consistency of the subscale assessing part II of the NDD scale. Part II of the scale was separated into two sections for analysis

- A series of Friedman's ANOVAs were employed to evaluate the analytical data based on survey responses from 17 participants who completed all the surveys.
- Differences among three time points were examined: pre-informational session (1), post-informational session (2), and at 4 to 6 weeks post-informational session (3).

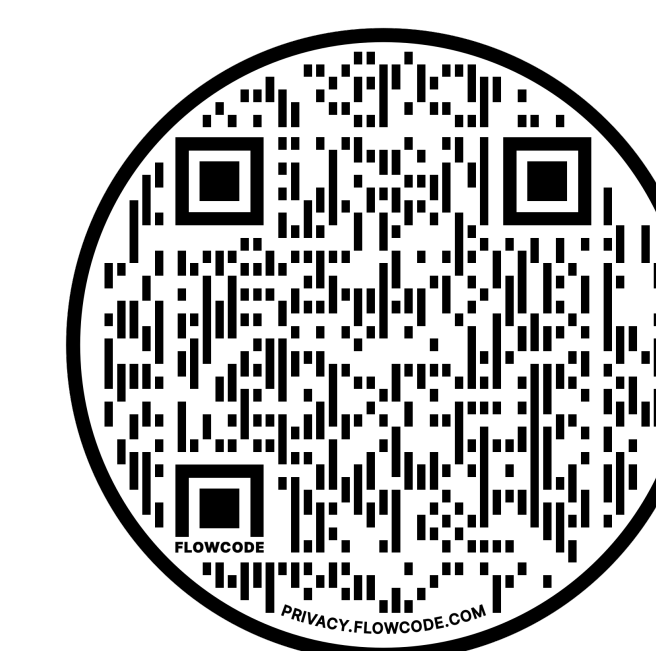
Discussion

- The informational session had a positive, long-term effect on oncology nurses' perceived difficulties in providing palliative care to adult oncology patients.
- Specifically, it was shown that compared to the perceived difficulties reported at time point 1, oncology nurses reported a statistically significant improvement at time point 3 in symptom management, communication with the healthcare team, communication with family, and grief management.

Implications

- Implications in quality and safety include potential for improvement in quality of care. By reducing perceived difficulties, oncology nurses may feel more comfortable and confident in their role as palliative care givers.
- As a measure of quality, an increase in patient/family satisfaction with communication may also be reflected.
- Most of the oncology nurses who participated had no prior palliative care training. An informational session, such as the one implemented, may benefit oncology nurses' knowledge and attitudes regarding palliative care, which may also positively impact their perceptions of working with patients at the end of life.

References



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