

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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## **Title: Cross Cultural End of Life Beliefs & Practices of Immigrants in Guelph and Wellington County**

### Objective

As the demand for palliative care increases, it is important to recognize the influence of ethnocultural factors in shaping diverse experiences, creating unique needs and providing appropriate care. This study examines the cross-cultural beliefs and practices surrounding terminal illness, palliative care, grieving, and caregiving among immigrant groups in Guelph and Wellington County. It aims to support Hospice Wellington in developing inclusive, culturally sensitive policies and practices for diverse populations.

### Key Findings

- Cultural preferences strongly influence attitudes towards end-of-life care, with the importance of family involvement cutting across ethnocultural groups.
- Effective hospice care requires personalized care and the accommodation of religious and cultural practices to meet the diverse needs of patients and families.
- A knowledge gap exists within immigrant communities regarding the array of available hospice services.

### Recommendations

- Adopt an EDI-J checklist during patient intake to gather essential ethno-cultural information through a diversity lens and modify care accordingly.
- Implementing a multi-layered approach when collecting data from patients, caregivers, and their families as immigrants may not readily reveal their needs.
- Emphasis on service offerings for caregivers and individuals experiencing bereavement may be attractive to certain groups that prefer home-based care for their loved ones.
- Conduct targeted marketing and information campaigns to raise awareness of available caregivers and bereavement services within immigrant communities that may not be aware of such services.
- Continuous update of internal databases with relevant information to support the EDI-J drive within the organization and ensure the delivery of culturally appropriate services.
- Integrate multilingual staff and volunteers into the team to facilitate effective communication and culturally sensitive care delivery.

### Conclusion

This study highlights the importance of incorporating diverse cultural perspectives into hospice care delivery to ensure inclusivity and sensitivity to the needs of diverse populations. By implementing the recommended strategies, Hospice Wellington can enhance cultural competence and accessibility to its services, thereby promoting a more inclusive and supportive environment for end-of-life care for patients and their families.



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