

Social Research Call 2020

Selected projects

Title: Evaluation of the Implementation of Tech-Volunteer Programme in Palliative Care Services

Acronym: ITV-Pal

Project leader: Rafael Gómez

Host organisation: CUDECA Hospice

Main purpose of the project: How can we offer support to patients and families through a volunteer caring program based on new technologies? The aim of this study is to implement and evaluate a volunteer training programme in the use of new technologies: ITV-Pal Programme to support patients facing a life-threatening illness and their families.

Design/methodology/approach: We will create two groups of volunteers, one group will follow the CUDECA standard training program, the other will follow the proposed intervention, ITV-Pal programme. Volunteers will be allocated randomly to each group. The second stage will consist of the implementation of the direct support to patients and families through the volunteers.

Potential results: We expect trained ITV-Pal volunteers to be able to increase the general welfare of the patients and families they care for. We will assess the quality of life of patients, families and volunteers and the quality of the dying process. We will also identify how new technology supports volunteer end of life care.

Social relevance of the research: Dying is a social process, so achieving a sense of community is paramount. Support through volunteers offers this sense of community much needed in death and dying. The commitment with the care of those who suffer is the strongest bond between people, the most powerful tool to build a community.

Originality/value of the project: To place new technologies in the caring field is challenging, especially to offer direct care. Normally new technologies are considered complementary tools in different caring activities. Through our project, new technologies may come into the spotlight of the caring field and become principal tools of community support.