To Begin at the Beginning: Determining Priorities for Pediatric Palliative Care Fast Facts with a Modified Delphi Study (TH346-A)

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Objectives

- Discuss the Fast Fact topics that pediatric palliative care physicians and pediatric residency program directors agree are most important for the education of pediatric interns.

Original Research Background: Palliative care Fast Facts—a collection of concise educational summaries on palliative care topics—enhance knowledge of internal medicine residents. There is no existing database of pediatric palliative care Fast Facts and no agreement on the core topics for which these summaries are needed.

Research Objectives: To determine the core topics for pediatric palliative care Fast Facts for the pediatric intern.

Methods: This study employed a modified Delphi technique—a multistage survey aimed at achieving agreement among a group of experts on an issue where none previously existed. We surveyed expert pediatric palliative care physicians and expert pediatric residency program directors to reach consensus on the highest yield topics for pediatric Fast Facts for the pediatric intern. In the first round survey, experts rated (1-5 Likert scale) a list of 93 pediatric palliative care topics identified via literature review to indicate the top Fast Facts that should be written for the pediatric intern and suggested additional topics. Topics were categorized according to criteria for consensus acceptance (mean rating U4), consensus rejection (mean rating M2), or equivocal (no consensus). The second round survey included the equivocal topics plus expert-identified topics from the first survey.

Results: 24 of 25 invited experts participated in the study with 75% and 96% response rates in the first and second surveys, respectively. Twenty-two of 93 topics met consensus for acceptance into the top Fast Facts on the first survey. Six additional topics met consensus for acceptance in the second survey.

Conclusions: This study identifies 28 Fast Fact topics that expert pediatric palliative care physicians and pediatric residency program directors agree are most important for the education of pediatric interns.

Implications for Research, Policy, or Practice: This study identifies the pediatric palliative care Fast Facts that should be written for pediatric interns as well as the content of a potential pediatric palliative care curriculum for pediatric interns.