



## Finding the Right Track for Your Principal Call Podium Abstract Submission

Choosing the right track ensures your work reaches the most relevant audience and is reviewed in the appropriate context. Each track represents a unique focus area within hospice and palliative care and is designed to highlight innovations, address pressing challenges, and foster interdisciplinary learning.

Conference tracks are used to organize accepted sessions into thematic groupings that support targeted learning and reflect the diverse focus areas within hospice and palliative care. Tracks help guide attendees in selecting sessions that align with their professional roles, interests, and practice settings, while also ensuring a balanced and comprehensive conference program. Submitters are encouraged to choose the track that best represents the core focus of their abstract to support proper alignment during the review and scheduling process. Thoughtful alignment with a conference track theme strengthens the impact of your submission and helps us build a meaningful, well-rounded program.

As you prepare your abstract, ask yourself:

- What is the primary focus of my work?
- Who is the intended audience?
- What gaps in knowledge or practice does this work address?
- How does it advance competence, collaboration, or care delivery?
- Is this work of value to a large group of learners—or to a more specialized audience?

Whether your content has wide-reaching relevance or is targeted to a focused group, each submission plays a role in building a rich and impactful learning experience.

Thank you for taking the time to guide your abstract to the best possible placement—we look forward to sharing your work with the hospice and palliative care community.

We're here to help you showcase your work in the best possible light—let your insights shine!

You'll find detailed track descriptions and the types of authors who are likely to submit to each of the tracks below to help guide your decision. If your work spans multiple areas, select the **track that best represents your core message or intended impact**.



## Leadership & Program Development

### **Content Focus:**

Strategies to design, lead, and sustain high-quality hospice and palliative care programs across diverse clinical settings. Topics may include team building, leadership development, change management, business planning, financial sustainability, strategic planning, workforce development, equity-focused system design, regulatory and policy navigation, succession planning, quality metrics, and the scaling and replication of innovative care models.

### **Who Should Submit:**

Current and aspiring leaders across all levels of hospice and palliative care—program directors, operational and clinical leaders, early-career professionals in leadership roles, administrators, and quality improvement specialists. This track welcomes submissions from individuals and teams working to strengthen organizational effectiveness, lead change, foster team development, and build sustainable, high-impact programs.

### **Session Attendee Target Audience:**

Clinicians, administrators, and team leaders seeking tools, strategies, and insights to guide program development, operational effectiveness, and long-term sustainability. This track is also well-suited for early-career professionals preparing for leadership roles, as well as seasoned leaders looking to adapt to changing healthcare environments and community needs.

## Hospice

**Content Focus:** Best practices and advances in hospice care, with a focus on improving quality, access, and equity across settings. Topics may include symptom management, caregiver support and bereavement services, interdisciplinary teamwork, serious illness communication, regulatory and reimbursement updates, hospice quality reporting, rural and underserved care delivery, culturally responsive care, hospice eligibility and recertification challenges, innovations in home- and community-based hospice, integration of specialty consult services, and strategies for improving transitions of care and continuity across the serious illness trajectory.

**Who should submit:** This track welcomes submissions from professionals from all disciplines who are committed to advancing high-quality, person- and family-centered hospice care. Early career clinicians and team members are encouraged to contribute as well. Submissions highlight direct patient care, interdisciplinary team dynamics, operational innovations, community-based



approaches, regulatory navigation, or quality and compliance strategies.

**Session Attendee Target Audience:** Hospice clinicians and interdisciplinary team members alongside administrators, quality and compliance professionals, and early-career providers seeking to enhance hospice care delivery across settings and populations. This track is also relevant for learners preparing for leadership roles in hospice practice and program development.

## Pediatrics

**Content Focus:** This track explores the unique needs of children with serious illness and their families, with a focus on evidence-based approaches to communication, symptom management, psychosocial support, and care delivery. The track welcomes innovative models that improve access, equity, and continuity of pediatric palliative and hospice care across settings.

**Who should submit:** Clinicians and interdisciplinary professionals providing care for pediatric patients with serious illness including researchers, educators, and program developers working in pediatric palliative care, including perinatal, adolescent or transitional care. Submissions from those integrating pediatric best practices into lifespan-based care are also encouraged.

**Session Attendee Target Audience:** Interdisciplinary team members who care for seriously ill children and their families in any setting. This track is ideal for pediatric-focused clinicians, adult-based clinicians infrequently caring for children, learners in pediatric subspecialties, and those seeking to integrate developmentally and family-centered approaches into broader palliative care practice.

## Innovations in Care

**Content Focus:** This forward-looking track highlights transformative innovations and quality improvement initiatives that are reshaping hospice and palliative care. Topics may include the use of emerging technologies, digital health tools, novel care delivery models, data-driven decision-making, artificial intelligence, and predictive analytics. Additional areas of focus include system redesign, equity-enhancing interventions, serious illness population health strategies, rapid-cycle improvement, and scalable approaches that improve access, outcomes, and patient and caregiver experiences across diverse settings and populations.

**Who should submit:** Clinicians, administrators, researchers, educators, and interdisciplinary teams at any career stage who are developing, implementing, or evaluating innovative practices in serious illness care. This includes individuals involved in quality improvement, health technology,



systems-level change, or cross-sector partnerships aimed at advancing the field.

**Session Attendee Target Audience:** Interdisciplinary professionals committed to improving care delivery through innovation—particularly those engaged in program redesign, technology integration, quality improvement, and systems-based practice. This track is also valuable for learners interested in the future of hospice and palliative care and in understanding how innovation can drive equity, effectiveness, and sustainability.

## Symptom Assessment & Management

**Content Focus:** This clinically focused track advances evidence-based strategies for comprehensive assessment and management of the complex symptoms experienced by individuals with serious illness. Topics may include pain and non-pain symptom management, psychological and emotional distress, existential suffering, integrative therapies, pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions, interdisciplinary approaches, patient-reported outcomes, and innovations in symptom evaluation tools and clinical workflows. Emphasis is placed on person-centered care and the translation of evidence into everyday practice across care settings and populations.

**Who should submit:** Hospice and palliative care clinicians and interdisciplinary team members who are engaged in improving symptom management at the bedside, within programs, or through systems-level initiatives. Submissions are encouraged from those developing, testing, or implementing new tools, models, or approaches to enhance symptom-related outcomes.

**Session Attendee Target Audience:** Clinicians and learners seeking to strengthen their expertise in symptom management, including those in clinical practice, fellowship training, or advanced roles. This track is especially relevant for those who deliver direct care, lead symptom-focused programs, or support quality improvement in symptom control across diverse care settings.

## Education

**Content Focus:** This track focuses on inclusive, advanced, and evidence-informed approaches to teaching, learning, and professional development in hospice and palliative care. Topics may include curriculum design, interprofessional education, fellow and trainee development, simulation and experiential learning, digital and asynchronous learning strategies, reflective practice, narrative medicine, structured assessment tools (e.g., milestones, EPAs), and strategies for integrating DEI principles into educational content. Emphasis is placed on aligning educational strategies with evolving learner needs, competency frameworks, and real-world practice improvement.



**Who should submit:** Educators, program directors, faculty, curriculum developers, fellowship leaders, clinical preceptors, and learners who are designing or delivering education in hospice and palliative care. Submissions are encouraged by those advancing teaching methods, developing competency-based education, promoting educational equity, or evaluating learning outcomes.

**Session Attendee Target Audience:** Educators, program directors and clinicians involved in teaching across disciplines and settings—including academic institutions, clinical training programs, and continuing education. This track is ideal for individuals involved in the development of learners at all levels, from students and trainees to practicing professionals, as well as those focused on innovation in faculty development, lifelong learning, and professional mentorship.

## Applying Competencies in Your Abstract Submission

Hospice and palliative care education is grounded in key professional competencies that reflect what clinicians need to know and do to provide high-quality, person-centered care. These competencies guide how educational content is reviewed, organized, and ultimately delivered to meet the learning needs of our interdisciplinary audience.

While not required, applying these competencies in your abstract submission is encouraged. Doing so can help clarify the educational value of your work and enhance its alignment with the conference’s professional development goals.

Each track supports specific focus areas that map to one or more core competency domains. Use the table below to identify how your content may align with competency-based education principles.

**Conference Tracks and Competency Domains**

Track Theme	Focus Area	Advances These Key Competency Domains
<b>Leadership or Program Development</b>	Systems improvement, sustainability, scaling programs	Systems-Based Practice, Professionalism, Practice-Based Learning
<b>Hospice</b>	Direct care delivery, regulations, team dynamics in hospice	Patient Care, Systems-Based Practice, Interprofessional Communication
<b>Pediatrics</b>	Pediatric palliative care, lifespan integration	Patient Care, Clinical Knowledge, Interprofessional Communication



Track Theme	Focus Area	Advances These Key Competency Domains
Innovations in Care	New models, QI initiatives, technology, equity-focused care	Systems-Based Practice, Practice-Based Learning, Interprofessional Communication
Symptom Assessment and Management	Pain, distress, symptom control	Patient Care, Clinical Knowledge, Practice-Based Learning
Education	Curriculum, training models, teaching innovation	Practice-Based Learning, Professionalism, Interprofessional Communication

We’re honored to partner with you in advancing hospice and palliative care. By sharing your work, you contribute to a vibrant, evidence-informed learning community committed to improving care for patients and families. Thank you for your dedication—and we look forward to seeing your ideas come to life at the 2026 Annual Assembly.