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Introduction

Caring for a child with a life-limiting illness can be one of the most difficult parts in the role of a healthcare professional (HCP). Palliative care has been shown to relieve suffering across multiple realms, including physical, psychological, practical and existential; improve quality of life; facilitate informed decision making and assist with coordination of care (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2013). Provision of quality palliative care includes acquisition of knowledge, skills, and attitudes in a variety of critical concepts including communication; pain and symptom management; care at the time of death; loss, grief, and bereavement; and ethical and legal issues (*ELNEC-PPC*, 2013). However, HCPs often admit a lack of comfort and confidence in providing these critical concepts when a patient is diagnosed with a life-limiting illness or at the end-of-life.

Purpose

Initiation of a Palliative Care Champions Program will improve the quality of care provided to patients & families diagnosed with life-limiting illnesses, receiving palliative care, or at end-of-life.

Objectives

- Promote comprehensive quality palliative care for patients across the healthcare system
- Enhance the collaboration that occurs between unit staff & the Palliative Care Team
- Select staff members with an interest in palliative care to serve as unit champions
- Develop an educational program to train & provide ongoing support and education to the unit champions.

Role of the Champion

1. To function as a resource for unit staff related to palliative care, end-of-life care, and quality of life
2. To serve as a liaison for staff & family needs
3. To improve the quality of care provided to patients & families diagnosed with life-limiting illness or at end-of-life

Materials and Methods

Identify Champions

- Director approval
- 2 years in RN role
- Desire to serve in role

Initial Education

- End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium – Pediatric Palliative Care
- Orientation Workshop (4hr)
- Shadow Palliative Care Team (4hr)

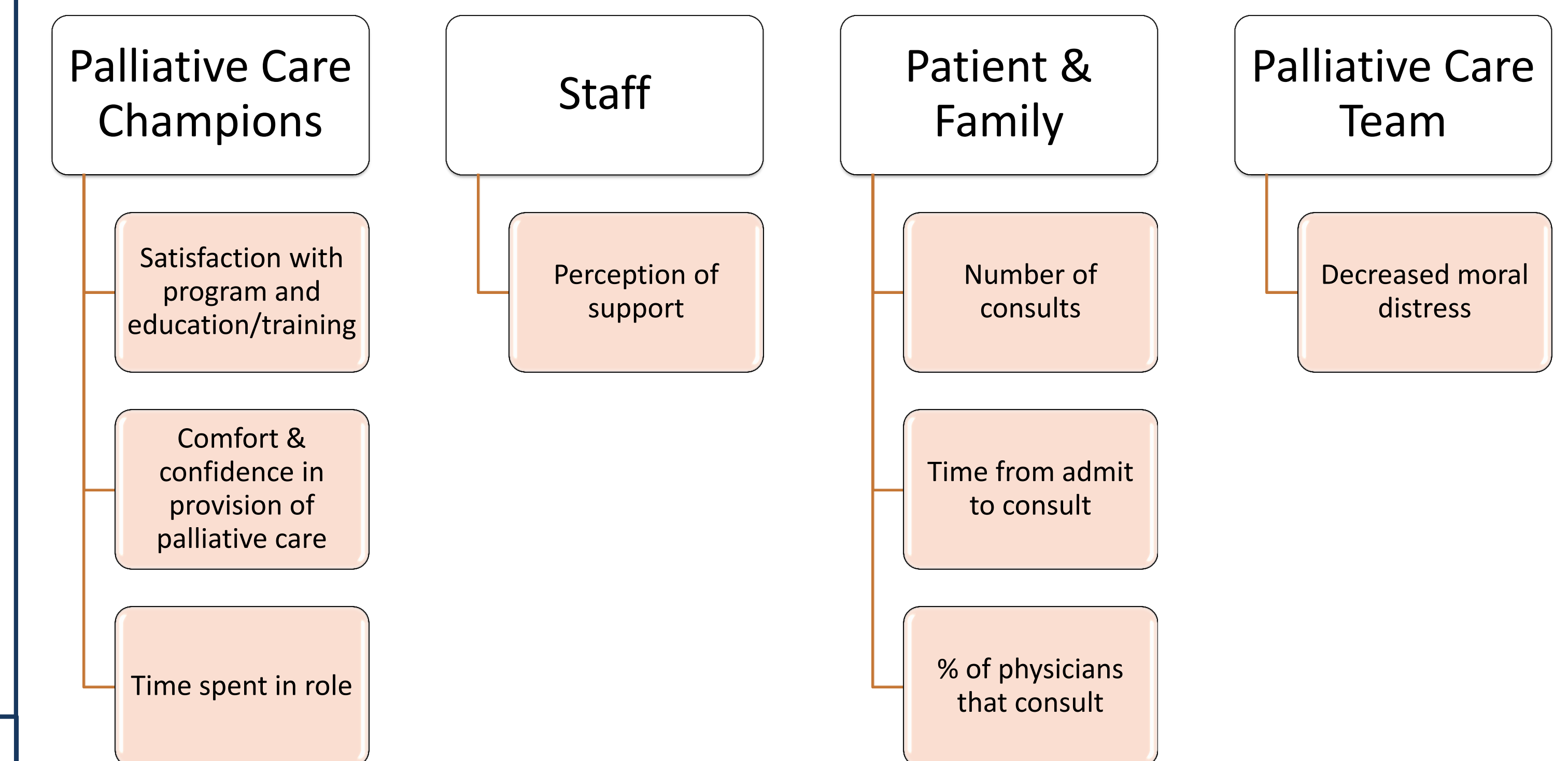
Ongoing Education

- Quarterly Educational Sessions (2hr)

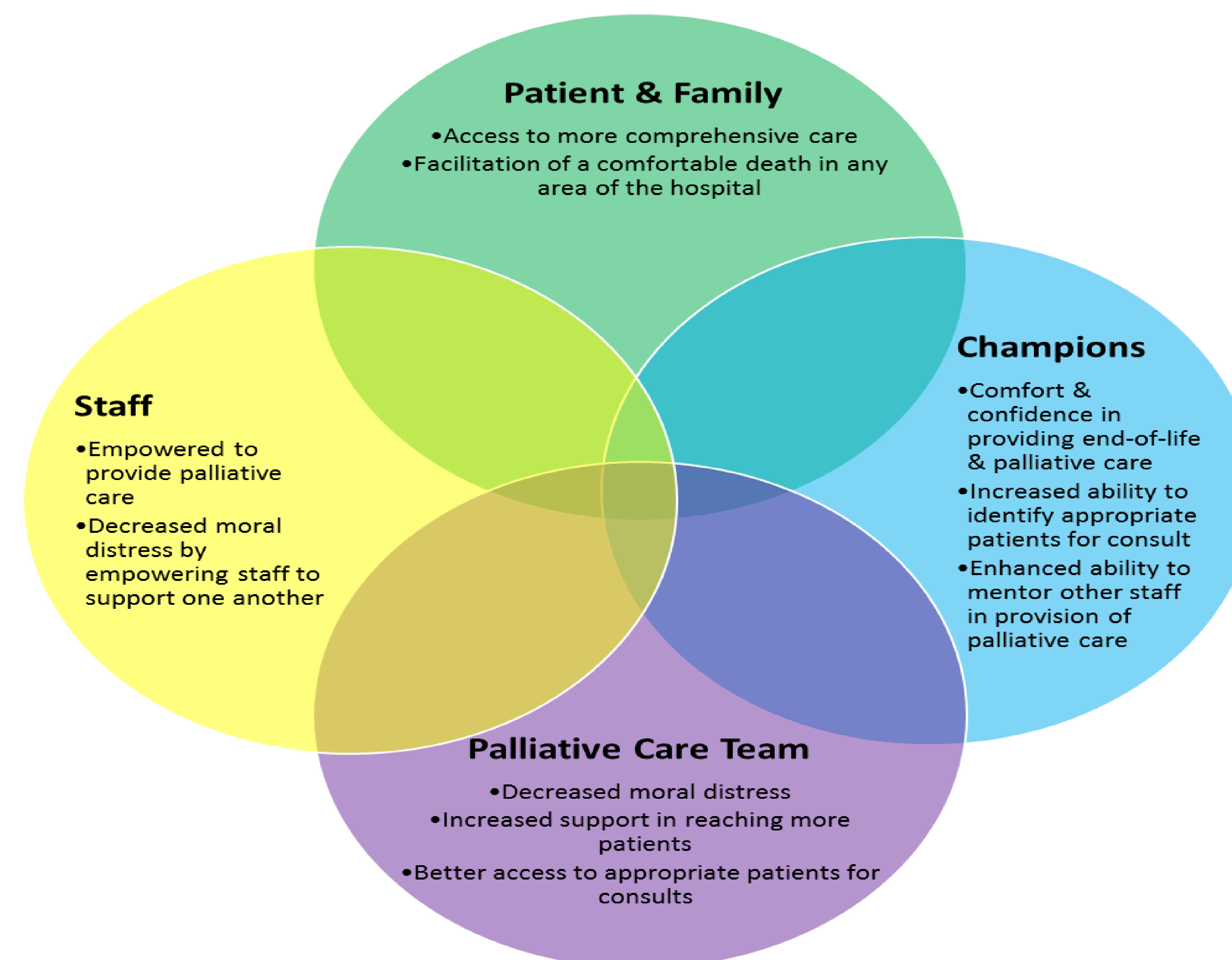
Maintenance Requirements

- Attend at least 75% of quarterly sessions each year
- Obtain CHPPN certification within 2 years
- Demonstrate continued involvement by fulfilling role duties

Outcomes Measurement



Benefits of a Palliative Care Champions Program



Palliative Care Champions: Pre-Survey

