The fellowship has allowed me the opportunity to gain experience in a variety of areas that I wouldn’t have otherwise been exposed to. I have learned from and collaborate with many of our excellent providers. Having the ability to learn in a supportive environment allowed me the opportunity to grow and blossom as a competent palliative care provider.

The fellowship has allowed me to realize more and more what I loved about palliative care. In addition, getting a year to learn the hospital system and meet people while getting extra support and training, was an excellent way to start my career, and I could not have had better mentors!!

We have been exposed to a wide variety of critical care during this time, seeing patients who are ideally suited to meet this need. As a new NP grad without prior nursing experience, this fellowship was tailor-made for me. I was able to get undeniably valuable learning experience by rotating with different service lines, across different facilities in our system. This not only increased my knowledge base, but also helped me better relate to and, thus, communicate with our referring providers who consult palliative care. While I was hesitant about specializing so soon in my career, each rotation allowed me to realize more and more what I loved about palliative care. In addition, getting a year to learn the hospital system and meet people, while getting extra support and training, was an excellent way to start my career, and I could not have had better mentors!!

The Advanced Clinical Practitioner fellowship at CHS has been an inspiring experience that has greatly influenced my career as an advanced practice nurse. When I applied for this fellowship I was looking for a training program that would offer me a broad spectrum of clinical experiences, and that is exactly what I have found in this program. It has offered me outstanding clinical training, ready access to exceptional clinical mentors, and a comprehensive curriculum that fosters both intellectual curiosity and professional growth.

As a new NP grad without prior nursing experience, this fellowship was tailor-made for me. I was able to get undeniably valuable learning experience by rotating with different service lines, across different facilities in our system. This not only increased my knowledge base, but also helped me better relate to and, thus, communicate with our referring providers who consult palliative care. While I was hesitant about specializing so soon in my career, each rotation allowed me to realize more and more what I loved about palliative care. In addition, getting a year to learn the hospital system and meet people, while getting extra support and training, was an excellent way to start my career, and I could not have had better mentors!!

“The fellowship has allowed me the opportunity to gain experience in a variety of areas that I wouldn’t have otherwise been exposed to. I have learned from and collaborate with many of our excellent providers. Having the ability to learn in a supportive environment allowed me the opportunity to grow and blossom as a competent palliative care provider.”

Background and Significance
- National shortage of hospice and palliative medicine physicians, estimated at 6000-18000 in 2010
- Demand expected to increase nationally and globally, as number of patients with life-limiting, chronic disease increases.
- MD fellowships have not, and will not be able to fill shortage of providers
- There are currently less than 10 palliative care fellowship programs for nurse practitioners, who are ideally suited to meet this need

Curriculum
- On-service Palliative Rotations
  Fellows will be exposed to care in level 1 trauma hospital, inpatient pediatrics, rural hospitals, out-patient Palliative Care clinics embedded in cardiology, hematology and oncology services; home setting, inpatient hospice sites, and skilled nursing facilities. Training opportunities will be available in both urban and rural communities.
- Off-service Rotations
  Fellows are also exposed to 3 months of off service rotations. Spaced into their 12 month program, one month is a hospitalist rotation. Their ICU rotation month can be either Surgical or ICU. And lastly one month is with the Trauma service. They are exposed to a wide variety of critical care during this time, seeing the Palliative patient from a different perspective.

Objective
In an attempt to meet the demands of this Palliative Care provider shortage, Carolina HealthCare Systems (CHS) has developed a 12-month fellowship program for NPs and PAs. The Palliative Care Fellowship is designed to equip NP/PA’s with the specialized skill sets necessary to assist patients and families who are diagnosed with a prolonged or life-threatening illness. With a focus on the provider’s transition to practice, the program is structured to develop and strengthen clinical proficiencies while increasing competence and confidence alongside a multidisciplinary team of well-rounded healthcare providers. They have weekly didactic sessions supplemented by an online classroom. Core component of this fellowship affords graduates the expertise to deliver comprehensive healthcare services together with the care coordination services which are essential to support best quality of life and appropriate symptom management. They receive clinical training in hospice and palliative care as well as optional rotations with pain management, rural experience, leadership/management, pediatrics and the post - acute care environment.