



Improving the Physical Environment for Older In-Patients at the End of Life

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Why did I apply for a CECo scholarship?



Occupation: nurse in a hospice in-patient
unit

Recently completed a Master's degree in
Palliative Care

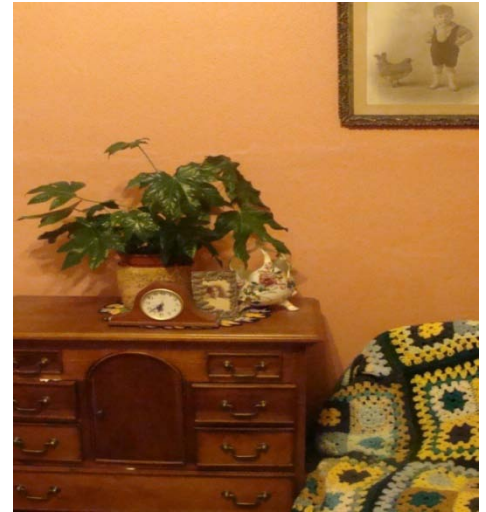
Good foundation for a PhD in the future!

My Research Project

Research Question:

What evidence is there about the specific environmental needs of older people who are near the end of life and are cared for in hospices or similar institutions?

Method: Narrative Literature Review



Summary of key findings

Five themes were identified:



- the overall design of the building, including its location
- the interior of the building – communal spaces
- the interior of the building - patient bedrooms
- sensory stimuli (noise, smell, visual stimuli)
- health and safety issues

Main conclusions

- Physical environment is an important aspect of the dying experience for older in-patients and families
- Patients, families and staff do not always have the same needs and priorities
- Environmental needs should be assessed as part of the patient admission process
- Further research is needed!

Reflections

My research has been more time-consuming than I expected....



.....and sometimes I felt quite lonely.....

BUT.....

How has CECo helped me?

Providing funding

- to backfill my clinical post
- to attend the IOELC Research Summer School

Academic support

- from supervisors
- access to the library etc

Attendance at Conferences and other events

- CECo events
- EAPC congress

Thank you!