

# Nurses Knowledge Regarding Care of Dying Patients at Oncology Centers

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## ABSTRACT

**Background;** End-of-life care pertains to the healthcare and assistance that patients have when confronted with a life-threatening disease. Many medical personnel in Iraq are still uninformed about and undertrained in handling the EOL issue, despite the country's growing need for EOL treatment.

**Objectives of the study** were to assess the nurses' knowledge regarding care of dying patients at oncology centers, examine the relationships between nurse's attitude and demographic variables.

**Methodology:** A cross-sectional design was conducted on Iraqi nurses in Middle Euphrates at three centers (N =150). The results shows moderate mean score for nurses knowledge in these area. Analysis reveals it is evident that there are statistically significant differences among various education levels in terms of their knowledge ( $p=0.000$ ) and a statistically significant distinction among nurses with varying years of experience in the oncology unit regarding their knowledge ( $p = 0.000$ ).Therefore, end-of-life care education is necessary for nurses, and palliative care education on clinical skills and the shortcomings of effective care delivery need to receive greater attention. Include palliative education in the basic nursing curriculum as well.

**Key words:** Knowledge, Cancer, Dying, Palliative care, Nurses

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