

**DRAFT Defined Award Standards for**  
**Palliative Care Skills**  
**(Minor Award, NFQ Level 5)**

<b>Award Title</b>	Palliative Care Skills
<b>Teideal as Gaeilge</b>	[To be translated]
<b>Award Class</b>	Minor Award
<b>Level</b>	NFQ Level 5    EQF Level 4
<b>Credit Value</b>	15 FET Credits
<b>Mandatory/Elective</b>	Elective

**Purpose**

This award is intended to equip the learner with the knowledge, skill, and competence needed to support individuals and their families following a life-limiting illness diagnosis in a dignified, inclusive, and holistic way. It is underpinned by the core values of compassion, care, and commitment, which support ethical principles and ensure the delivery of respectful, person-centred palliative care.

**Learning Outcomes**

**Upon successful completion, learners will be able to:**

1. Explore the core principles and values of palliative care, including quality of life, holistic support, and psychosocial-spiritual needs of individuals and their families, in line with current legislation and the professional code of conduct and ethics.
2. Plan and implement empathetic, person-centred care strategies that uphold patient privacy, dignity, autonomy (right to refuse), and comfort in palliative contexts.
3. Recognise the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of palliative care patients, and describe appropriate ways to support these needs.
4. Communicate sensitively and effectively with individuals, families, and multidisciplinary teams, demonstrating active listening, cultural competence, and emotional intelligence.

5. Employ therapeutic techniques to manage pain, symptom distress, anxiety, and end-of-life care, using evidence-based approaches.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of advocacy in palliative care by recognising when and how to support individuals in expressing their needs, preferences, and rights at end-of-life.
7. Describe legal, ethical, and professional guidelines related to end-of-life care, including confidentiality, informed consent, advanced directives, and accountability.
8. Accurately document and report care plans, patient responses, and changes in condition in compliance with clinical governance standards and audit requirements.
9. Reflect on personal values, attitudes and learning experiences to support ethical decision-making and contribute to the development of an integrated, equitable, and sustainable palliative care system.

### **Access**

To access programmes leading to the above awards, learners should have achieved the knowledge, skills, and competence associated with NFQ Level 4 in the areas of literacy, numeracy, digital skills, communication, and personal effectiveness.

Learners must be able to communicate effectively with colleagues in the workplace through speaking, listening, reading, and writing. This may be through a formal qualification or relevant life and work experience demonstrating equivalent learning.

### **Transfer**

Achievement of this award will enable the learner to transfer to other appropriate programmes leading to awards at the same level of the National Framework of Qualifications.

### **Progression**

Achievement of this award will enable the learner to progress to other appropriate programmes leading to awards at the next or higher levels of the National Framework of Qualifications.

### **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**

Learners may be assessed based on their prior knowledge and experience. This must be conducted in accordance with the relevant policies and procedures of the provider.

### **Specific Validation Requirements:**

- Garda Vetting.
- Access to clinical learning environment (work base learning) with up-to-date equipment, fixtures and fittings, cleaning agents and materials, disinfectants, antiseptics, sterilisers, waste disposal and personal protective equipment.
- Access to an environment and equipment replicating the clinical setting (classroom).
- Work-based learning hours to be set in the application for validation.

**Sector Specific Requirements:**

- CPR and use an automated external defibrillator (AED).
- Assisted Mobility Training (Safe People Moving and Positioning Training) in accordance with current legislation and workplace health and safety policies.