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PCAU Mission: "To accelerate the integration of Palliative care in the Uganda health care system through capacity building, advocacy, research and resource mobilization."

INTRODUCTORY COURSE IN PALLIATIVE CARE FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

1. Background

The Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU) was established in 1999, to support and promote the development of palliative care and palliative care providers in Uganda. PCAU's vision is Palliative Care for all in need in Uganda and the Mission statement is "To support and promote access to palliative care for patients and families in need through integration in health care systems, education, training and evidence based practices and advocacy."

PCAU works within the national framework for palliative care set out in the National Health Sector Strategic Implementation plan and is mandated to scale up palliative care throughout Uganda in conjunction with the Uganda Ministry of Health. PCAU currently provides technical support, mentorship and support supervision for 97 districts with palliative care services, some of which have standalone district palliative care initiatives. PCAU has 10 district branches which support service providers and conduct regular palliative care update meetings to enhance health workers knowledge and skills in palliative care service provision.

The Core Focus Areas of the Palliative Care Association of Uganda.

The mission of PCAU which is to accelerate the integration of palliative care into the Ugandan Health Care System is implemented through four key focus areas:

- a) Capacity Building which is aimed at integrating palliative care services in every district of Uganda by 2021 through a system of focused training, mentorship and support supervision.
 - b) Advocacy and Awareness Creation which is aimed at increasing the awareness and understanding of Palliative Care issues among stakeholders and thus leading to a supportive environment for the providers and services.
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c) Palliative Care Research which is aimed at making PCAU a hub of Palliative Care information through undertaking research and/or hosting relevant research and leading the collection, storing, analysis of data and by regularly disseminating information to improve Palliative Care services in Uganda.

d) Governance and Financial Resource Mobilization for Palliative Care which is aimed at building Strong Governance structure for PCAU and Member organizations as well as ensuring resource mobilization for the sustainability of Palliative Care Services in Uganda.

2. Purpose of the Short Palliative Care Introductory Course

The five days palliative care introductory course will give basic information and knowledge to health care workers on the concepts of Palliative Care. The course will empower participant to identify patients with palliative care needs, undertake holistic assessment and manage some of the pains and symptoms of palliative care patients. They will gain knowledge how to integrate palliative care concepts in the daily health care activities. They will also learn appropriate referrals systems to specialized palliative care centers. They will join the big network of palliative care professionals. The aim of the course is to develop participants' understanding of the philosophy, principles and practice of palliative care.

The course content will:

- Develop participants' knowledge of the philosophy of palliative care and its applicability to the Ugandan health care system.
 - Develop participants' knowledge and skills in relation to assessing and managing most common symptoms affecting patients with palliative care needs and their families.
 - Develop participants' knowledge and skills in communicating effectively with patients with life limiting illnesses and their families.
 - Develop participants' knowledge of palliative care for HIV and AIDS and handling grief and bereavement issues.
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- Enhance the holistic approach to palliative care patients. They will be able to attend to patients' physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs.
- Discuss ethical dilemmas faced in palliative care and the importance of caring for the caregivers.
- Develop participants' knowledge and skills to deal with issues around death and dying and end-of-life care.

Participants

The course has been developed for health care professionals (nurses, doctors, clinical officers, social workers etc.) who work in the general health care setting (Government and private health facilities) as well as those working in palliative care settings.

A total of 30 Participants will be expected to benefit from this course.

How to participate:

Individuals or organizations interested to second their staff to attend this course should fill in application forms available on PCAU website at, www.pcauganda.org or contact PCAU through pcau.admin@pcau.org.ug or call +256 – 414 692 350 or +256- 392 080 713.

Registration fees: is Three hundred fifty shillings only Ugx (350,000/=) this will include participants meals and refreshments.

Venue: Mulago School of Nursing.

Date: 16th – 20th February 2020

Closing date to receive applications is 31st January 2020 by 12 Noon.
