

Nurses attitude towards the death of palliative care patients

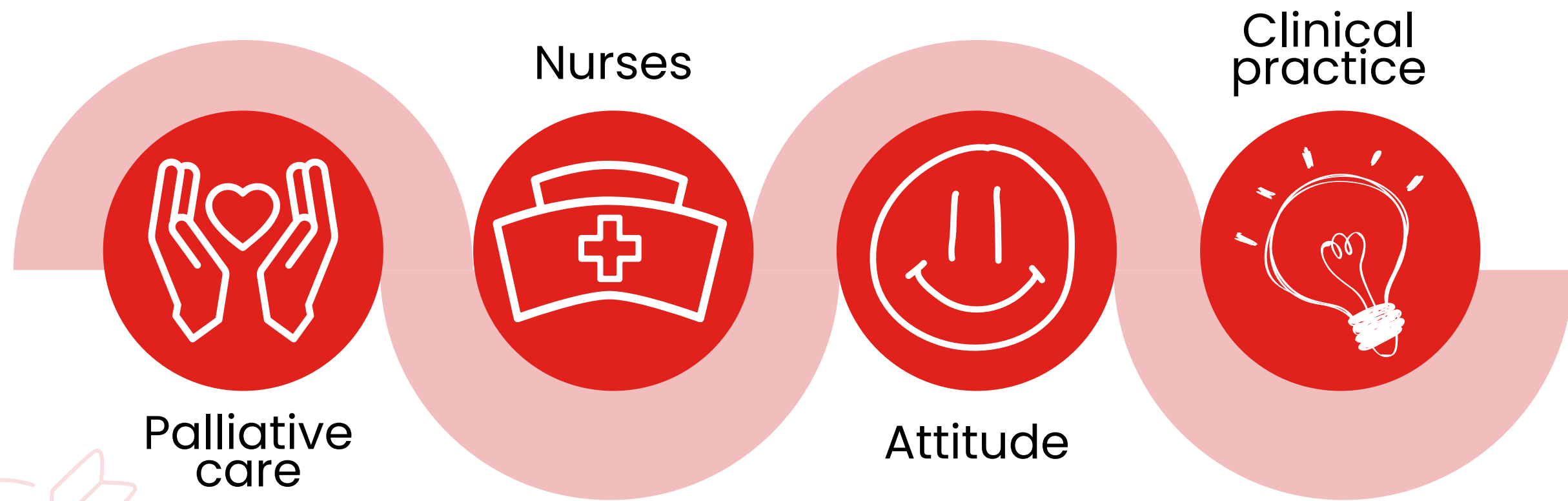
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Introduction -

Palliative care, often faces **confusion** among healthcare professionals. **Nurses**, who play a pivotal role in delivering palliative care, often exhibit **knowledge gaps and less favorable attitudes** towards end-of-life care.





Understanding their attitudes towards death is essential for **enhancing patient care**.



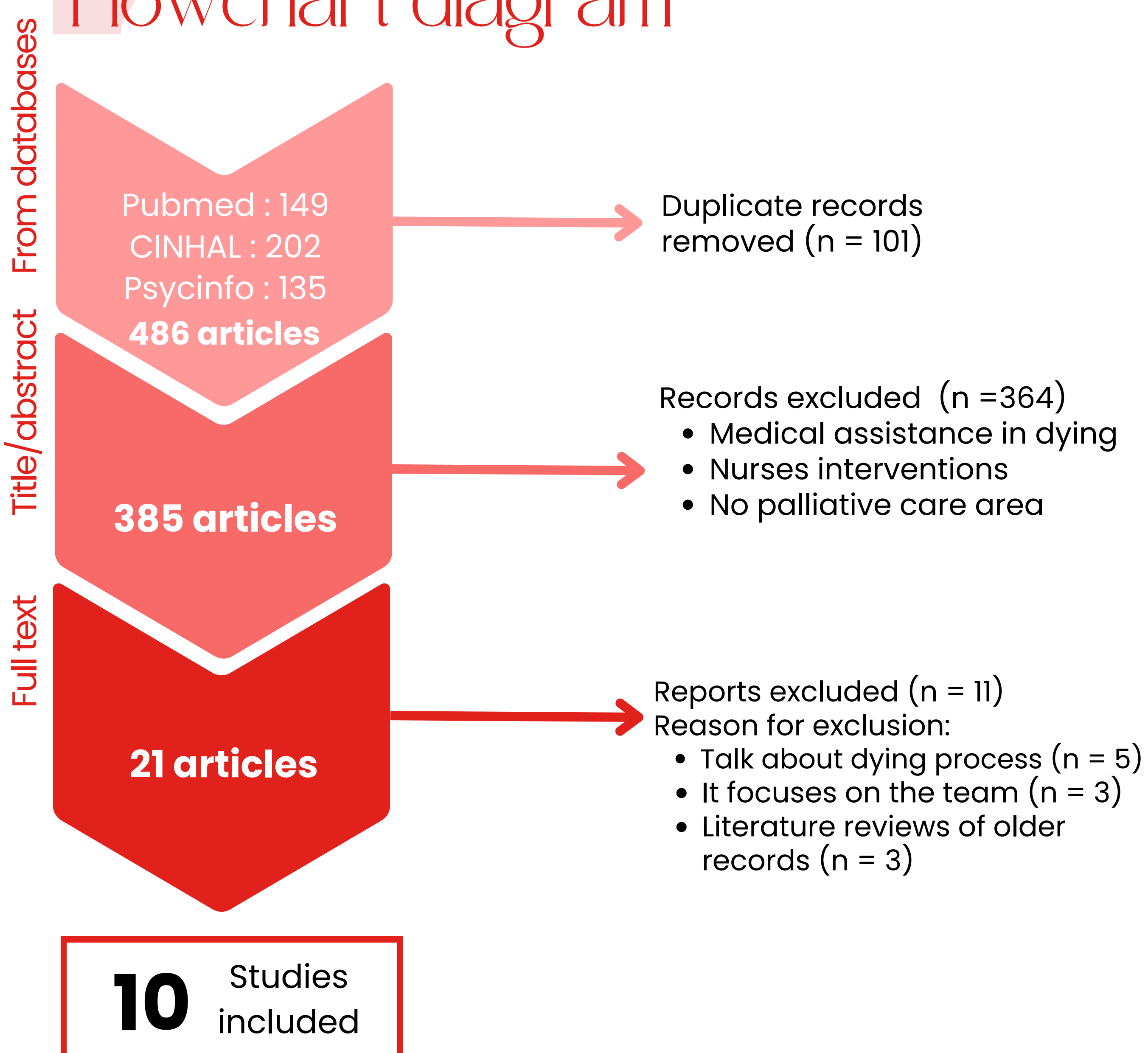
Objective: examine nurses' attitude towards the death of palliative care patients and the factors that influence it.

Methodology -

Clinical question → What are the nurses' attitudes toward the death of palliative care patients?

	PubMed + CINAHL + AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION PsycINFO®
	Nurses (Mesh terms) A Attitude of health personnel (Mesh terms) N Death (Mesh terms) D Palliative care (Mesh terms) A
	October 2023 - January 2024
	Spanish / English Last 5 years Palliative care

Flowchart diagram



Results -

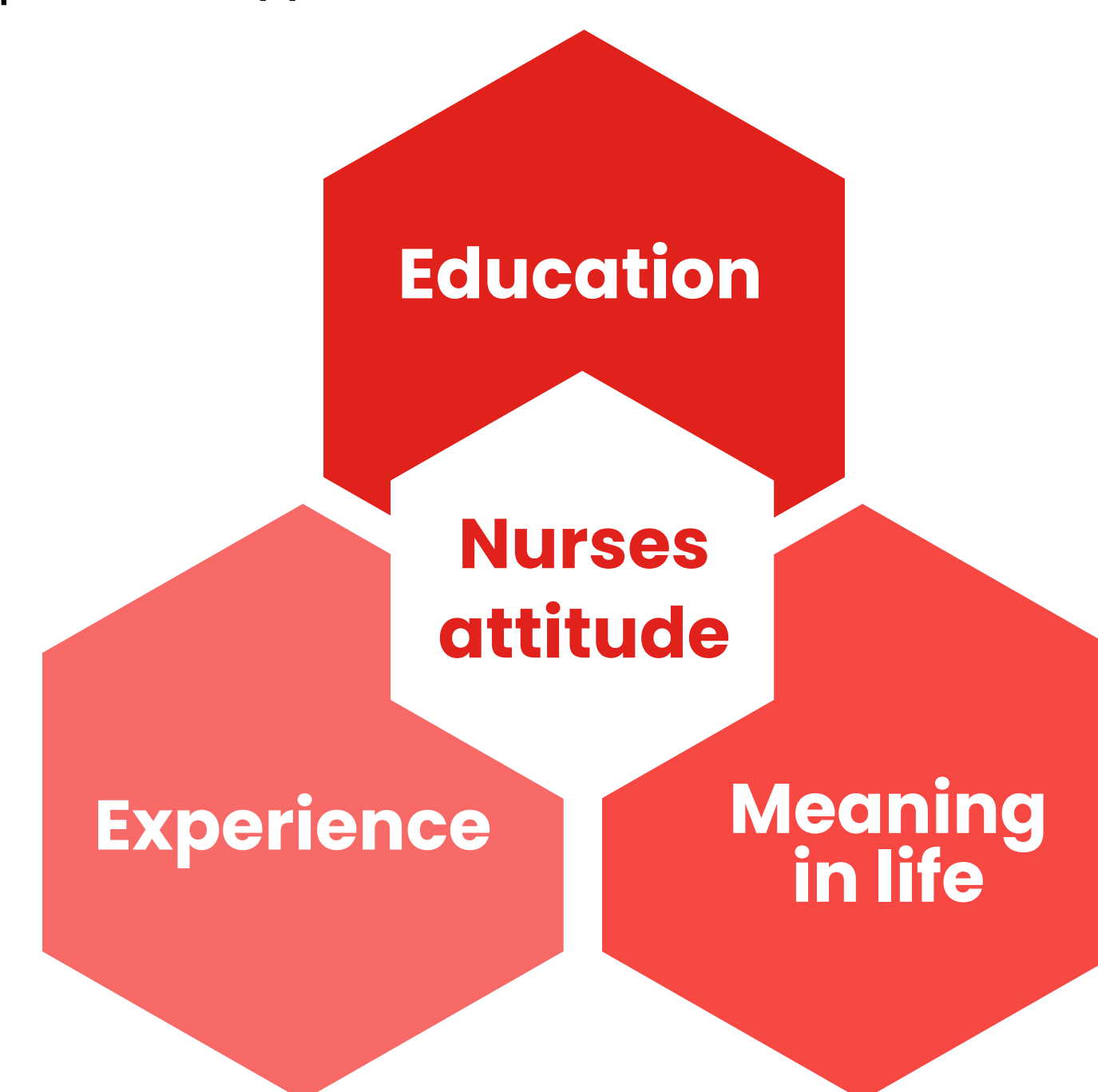
Nurses attitude

Nurses do **not** provide **sufficient support** to dying patients due to their **negative attitudes** toward death. The ones with a higher positive attitude are able to provide patients a better support during the last days (1).

Nurses' attitude can also have an **impact on themselves**, it can mediate their death anxiety (2,3)

When nurses treat and diagnose **dying patients**, they may experience frustration, leading to **emotional distress**. This can subsequently affect their **attitudes toward death**. (4).

Attitude toward death is more **resistant to change** than attitude toward care of dying patients (1).



Education

➕ Nurses who had previously undergone palliative care training are **more prepared** to attend dying patients and **recognise** their own **emotions** (4). It can **improve nurses attitude** (2,3,5).

Experience

➕ Nurses with a longer experience on the field have a **lower death anxiety** when facing death (3,6). they are more inclined to **release feelings** of helplessness and the burden associated with death (3), **increases their self-efficacy** in coping with death and grief (4). **Newly qualified** nurses, need a **higher support** and mentorship (3,7).

➖ Nurses are **hesitant to confront death** and feel less prepared to deal with end-of-life situations (4). Greater exposure **may not translate** into **better nursing competences** in end-of-life care (1).

Meaning in life

➕ **Reduces** levels of psychological distress, burnout, and negative affect. The **pursuit** of meaning in life was **not correlated with lower levels** of these aspects (8).

➕ **Religion** makes nurses **less vulnerable to anxiety and depression**, lowers grief and anxiety levels and strengthen their acceptance of death (2).

Conclusions -

Nurses attitudes towards death of palliative care patients fluctuate; it is influenced by different **factors**. Specialized training and **education** in palliative care can **reduce death anxiety** and **improve patient care**.

Addressing nurses' attitudes toward death is crucial for improving palliative **care quality** and **staff well-being**.

Health care organizations should acknowledge the **impact of nurses' attitudes on patient care** and staff well-being.

Nursing **education programs** should include comprehensive training on end-of-life care and coping strategies, with opportunities for experiential learning.

Future research should explore interventions to enhance nurses' attitudes in palliative care settings.

