Rationale and Aims:

Practice development demands a commitment to continuous review and improvement based on evidence (Corner 1999). Building on the Module “Theory and Practice 1: Principles and Philosophy of Palliative Care: an Interdisciplinary Perspective, this module will facilitate the student to develop an in-depth critical analysis of the structure and functioning of the Irish Health Care System with particular reference to Irish Palliative Care service provision. This critical exploration will include the impact of policy and policy formation on palliative care service provision for individuals with life limiting illness and their families, across the lifespan.

The key principles in managing change and the application of these principles to local, national and international palliative care practice underpin palliative care service development and delivery. The increasing emphasis on quality raises important ethical questions regarding service provision and the structures and design of palliative care practice among various population groups and throughout geographical locations. Reflecting in and on practice provides opportunity for students to critically review the structure, and functioning of the Health services of Ireland, with particular reference to the design, delivery and development of Palliative Care Health Services. In addition, this module will explore the impact of organisation and policy on the health service environment and the role of the interdisciplinary palliative care team members therein.

The aims of the module are:

- To critically analyse palliative care practice in the context of current healthcare policy and developments.
- To enable students to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes to make an effective and personal contribution to the development of both the health services and health policy.
- Critically analyse the inhibiting and facilitating factors that influence palliative care health service management and development.
- To critique current approaches to the development, design and delivery of palliative care health services management at local, national and international level.
- To promote interagency collaboration and clinical leadership within palliative care practice, education, research and management.

Module Content

- The nature of management, theories of managing change.
- Quality and health service management provision.
- Analysis of health policies, implications for practice, strategies for service provision.
- Resource allocation and utilisation.
- Strategic and service planning and evaluation.
• Influential reports guiding the design, development and delivery of palliative care services nationally and internationally.
• Current and proposed palliative care services for children in Ireland.
• Acute / Specialist sector interface.
• Benchmarks and milestones in palliative care service provision: local, national and international perspectives.
• Critical analysis of Irish Palliative Care services.
• Human resource planning in palliative care.
• Interface of policy planning and practice: palliative care, care of older person, paediatric palliative care.

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
• Explain the structure and functioning of the Irish Health Care System.
• Analyse the impact of policy and policy formation on service provision.
• Analyse the key principles in managing change and apply these principles to local, national and international palliative care practice.
• Critically appraise the individual and interdisciplinary contribution to palliative care health service management, taking cognisance of the social, cultural and political context of palliative care service and practice development.
• Critique current approaches to palliative care service delivery across the lifespan, with reference to developing short and long-term strategic initiatives for the development of interdisciplinary palliative care practice when caring for individuals with life limiting illnesses and their families.
• Critically analyse the inhibiting and facilitating factors that influence palliative care practice, education and research development.

Methods of Teaching and Student Learning: Modified lecture, group work, WEBCT activities, discussion groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Methods of Assessment</th>
<th>Weighting:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written assignment 3,000</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEBCT activities</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Contact Hours

| Direct Contact: Class and online       | 30 |
| Assessment Student Effort             | 30 |
| Specified Activities                  | 30 |
| Self-Directed Learning                | 110|
| Direct Contact: Supervision           |    |
| **Total Hours**                       | **200**|
**Indicative Resources**


