

What else is missing  
in PPC in SG?



# Scope

Current state

International standards

Aspirational targets



A person's hands are shown holding a lit sparkler. The sparkler is bright and glowing, with many sparks flying out. The person is wearing a dark, textured sweater. The background is dark with white splatters and a circular pattern. The overall mood is celebratory and hopeful.

# Current state

How far have we come?





# Developments thus far...

**2004:** Hospital PPC service in KKH



**2017:** Paediatric ward of six beds at Assisi Hospice



**2022:** The Dungeon in Oasis@Outram – PPC day care by Star PALS



**2012:** Star PALS – specialist PPC service at home



**2021:** Dedicated hospital PPC service in NUH



What next?

# International Standards

How do we compare?



*Special Article*

International Standards for Pediatric Palliative Care:  
From IMPaCCT to GO-PPaCS

Franca Benini, MD, Danai Papadatou, PhD, Mercedes Bernad , MD, Finella Craig, MD, Lucia De Zen, MD, PhD, Julia Downing, PhD, Ross Drake, MD, Stefan Friedrichsdorf, MD, FAAP, Daniel Garros, MD, Luca Giacomelli, PhD, Ana Lacerda, MD, Pierina Lazzarin, BSc, Sara Marceglia, PhD, Joan Marston, RN, Mary Ann Muckaden, MD, Simonetta Papa, PhD, Elvira Parravicini, MD, Federico Pellegatta, RN, and Joanne Wolfe, MD

# Background

Essentially a **global overview of PPC standards**

IMPACT first crafted 15 years ago (2007)

GO-PPaCS involved **review of contemporary literature**  
followed by **expert consensus**

Considered - **setting; resources; challenges**

Reviewed - **definitions; eligibility; need**





# Review process and paper preparation

## 1. Identification of the areas of interest:

- (i) definition of PPC and eligibility criteria
- (ii) magnitude of the need for PPC
- (iii) needs
- (iv) end-of-life care
- (v) care models and settings of care
- (vi) PPC in humanitarian emergencies
- (vii) care tools
- (viii) education and training for healthcare providers



## 2. Preliminary literature review in MEDLINE on the areas of interest:

- English papers
- publication period: 2016–2020
- creation of an on-line repository

## 3. Contribution from each Author to the specific area of interest:

- contribution to literature research
- sharing of a short report on the selected area, comment on existing evidence and providing an expert opinion
- preparation of a list of proposed fundamental points or PPC standards on the selected topic



## 4. Revision and global harmonization of all Authors' contributions



## 5. Critical revision by all Authors of the first draft



## 6. Sharing of the final paper and final consent to the submission



# Redefined original standards along six areas

1. Clinical, psychosocial, ethical & spiritual **needs**
2. EOL care
3. Care **models** & **settings** of care
4. PPC in humanitarian emergencies
5. Care **tools**
6. **Education & training** for HCP





# Aspirational targets

How about remaining gaps?

# Clinical, psychosocial, ethical & spiritual needs

## × Advanced care planning

### Standards

- ACP discussions should continue throughout the disease trajectory as much as possible, and may include, but are not limited to: the wishes about the care of the child, the definition of the goals of care and reconsideration of goals when the child's health worsens, plans about "what to do" in case of emergencies, and end-of-life care. All options should be kept open and revised regularly
- Specific guidelines for ACP should be established in each institution
- Healthcare professionals should receive proper training in ACP

# Care models & settings of care tools

## 1. Respite care



## 2. Perinatal palliative care

Tewani KG, Jayagobi PA, Chandran S, Anand AJ, Thia EW, Bhatia A, Bujal R, Khoo PC, Quek BH, Tagore S, Chua MC. **Perinatal Palliative Care Service: Developing a Comprehensive Care Package for Vulnerable Babies with Life Limiting Fetal Conditions.** Journal of Palliative Care. 2021

## 3. Self care?

# Care **tools**

1. Needs assessment & process measurement tools
2. Outcome measurement for service effectiveness or impact
3. Bereavement assessment & customized programmes



# Education & training of healthcare providers

1. Interdisciplinary learning programmes e.g., EPEC – Pediatrics



2. Residency in paediatrics?

How far do we want to go?







Someone said to me,  
"I don't know how you do it."  
I replied,  
"I wasn't given a choice."

