

Abstract

The aim of the thesis is to present findings about the experiences of palliative care assistants in caring for people who are dying. The thesis consists of a theoretical and a practical part. The theoretical part of the thesis describes relief services and the profession of relief service assistants. It deals with the prestige of the profession, the competences of assistants and the burden that accompanies the performance of the profession. It contains knowledge about people in a terminal state and the manifestations that accompany this state. Procedures are described here that are recommended when caring for people in a terminal condition. The topic of care for dying clients is closely related to palliative care therefore the theoretical part includes a chapter on palliative care and different ways of providing palliative and hospice care. Mobile specialized care, multiprofessional team and involvement of assistants in multiprofessional mobile hospice teams are described in more detail. The practical part is dedicated to the theoretical-methodological starting points of the thesis – social constructionism, case social work, case management and mobile specialized care. The lived experience of palliative care assistants in caring for terminally ill people is explored using a qualitative research strategy. The knowledge can be beneficial for managers and assistance of respite services and can also help to improve the quality of care for clients in a terminal state.

Keywords:

Palliative services assistant, terminal, hospice