

Compassion, Collaboration, and Creativity: China's Palliative Care Medical Consortium Model

China faces unprecedented challenges in palliative care delivery, with rapidly aging demographics and rising chronic disease burden creating substantial unmet needs. The 2025 Practice Guidelines for Hospice and Palliative Care mark a transformative shift in China's approach, emphasising community-based care, multi-tiered service integration, and standardized quality metrics. Complementing this, the newly released Chinese Expert Consensus on Palliative Care and Hospice Care Definitions (2025) establishes unified terminology and scope, facilitating systematic implementation across diverse healthcare settings.

We present an innovative solution through the Palliative Care Medical Consortium framework, exemplified by Peking Union Medical College Hospital's experience. This model creates a hierarchical network linking tertiary hospitals with community health centers, enabling bidirectional referrals, remote consultation, joint training programmes, and resource sharing. The consortium empowers primary care providers through technical support, standardised protocols, and continuous education, effectively extending specialist expertise to the community level.

The model addresses critical barriers including workforce shortages, fragmented services, and urban-rural disparities. This presentation offers valuable insights for international audiences seeking scalable, culturally-adapted approaches to palliative care development in resource-constrained settings, highlighting how collaboration and creativity can transform compassionate care delivery at the population level.