

# ***Journal of Social Work in End-of-Life and Palliative Care***

**Call for manuscripts for special thematic issue on**

## **Pain Issues in Palliative Care and End of Life: Expanding the Social Work Role**

**Deadline: January 15, 2016 \***

Pain and/or the fear of pain is often experienced by patients receiving palliative care and those facing end of life. Failure to address the multidimensional sources of pain and related suffering can produce emotional and moral distress for both personal and professional care providers. Disparities continue in access to quality pain management, and too few providers feel well-prepared to care for those with complicated pain concerns.

For this special thematic issue, manuscripts are encouraged that report on original research, including systematic literature reviews and meta-analyses, policy analysis, program evaluation, innovative educational programs, and evaluated community interventions.

Manuscripts must specifically relate to palliative and/or end-of-life care topics in pain/symptom management for serious illness.

Examples of topic categories that will be considered include, but are not limited to:

- The role of the social worker in comprehensive pain assessments and interventions
- Access to adequate care for pain and symptom management and disparity issues (including lack of adequate insurance coverage and geographic challenges)
- Roles and needs of family and other informal caregivers
- Communication about care plans related to pain and symptom management (including adherence concerns)
- Issues related to pain and symptom management for specific populations (such as pediatric; geriatric; LGBT, incarcerated persons, or speakers of a language other than English, etc.)
- Issues related to care for those with a history of substance abuse/misuse
- Issues related to the intersection of pain and existential and/or spiritual suffering
- The impact of pain and symptom concerns on sexuality and intimacy
- Integrative, complementary and alternative medicine
- Cultural considerations and culturally-sensitive interventions
- Ethical challenges and decision-making (including issues related to “palliative sedation for intractable suffering” and requests for hastened death, or assisted suicide based on fear of pain)
- Needs and education of health care professionals regarding issues of pain and related suffering (including moral distress)
- Polypharmacy issues and access

- The impact of media in relationship to myths, misconceptions and misinformation related to pain management (for example as related to opioid use)
- Interprofessional practice issues and concerns (including the role of the social worker as related to pain management, “specialist” and “generalist” roles, issues related to professional boundaries, and implications related to workforce shortages)

Manuscripts may also address practice, policy, research, and educational implications for social work/mental health professionals regarding the issues identified.

Instructions for authors may be found on the journal's website: <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wswe20/current>

Questions about this call for manuscripts may be addressed to:

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