FoNS has an extensive library of resources.

Project Reports:

**Life Stories for Wellbeing at Garden House Hospice**
https://www.fons.org/library/report-details/73169
To date, three series of sharing stories for wellbeing groups have been held, where participants share their life stories/memories around a particular theme. A volunteer records the stories, which are taped, typed up and given to the patient and also available to family members as a keepsake. Feedback from patients about the sessions has been very positive:

*Even with the sadness everyone has gone through, and a lot of sadness to come, [these sessions] are very helpful because I remember things that gave me joy.*

The team wrote a blog 25 October 2016
https://www.fons.org/common-room/blogs?year=2016&month=10#blg4673

**Healthcare Assistants as Second Checkers of Controlled Drugs for Timely Symptom Management in a Hospice Setting**
https://www.fons.org/library/report-details/71012
The team at Compton Hospice in Wolverhampton wanted to reduce the length of time patients had to wait for controlled drugs for symptom management and decided to train healthcare assistants to become competent second checkers. They worked carefully and collaboratively with staff at all grades to introduce this innovation into practice.

**Improving Person-centred Care for Hospice Patients who have Difficulty Expressing their Needs**
https://www.fons.org/library/report-details/70836
The team at St Gemma’s Hospice originally set out to improve the management of pain for people with dementia or cognitive impairment, but soon realised that there was more value in ‘Helping Us Understand You’ than simply pain management. They realised that developing an understanding of their patients, preferably over a period of time, was a key part of developing more person-centred care for all.

**A Holistic Approach to Nutrition and Diet in Palliative Care**
https://www.fons.org/library/report-details/70527
Palliative patients have varying needs regarding food and nutrition and the ‘goal of nutrition therapy may NOT be weight gain or reversal of malnutrition, but it should be about quality of life’. This was the starting point for the team from Dorothy House Hospice, who developed a nutritional assessment specifically designed for patients in a palliative care environment. This assessment enabled conversations with patients and relatives that would not otherwise have happened.

**Developing, Implementing and Evaluating a Therapeutic Model in the Day Care Centre Setting at the Hazel Centre at Countess Mountbatten House**
https://www.fons.org/library/report-details/59904
Staff wanted a programme which was supportive and enabling to promote independence and wellbeing, giving patients with a terminal diagnosis of cancer practical information and nursing and psychological support.

**Developing a Culturally and Ethnically Sensitive Family Assessment Tool**
https://www.fons.org/library/report-details/55736
In this project, Admiral nurse teams have used the culturagram, developed in the United States, to enable them to work in a more culturally and ethnically sensitive manner. Findings indicated that the modified Culturagram can be used with people from all backgrounds and positive feedback was received from both staff and service users.

**The Creation of a Single Multi-disciplinary Patient Assessment Tool for all Services within St. John’s Hospice**
https://www.fons.org/library/report-details/45280
Poor communication can impact on patient care resulting in unmet need. The creation of a holistic assessment tool to be used by all services at the hospice was recognised as a means of improving care.

**Care Home at Night, Evening and Weekend - Making Residents’ Choices Happen**
https://www.fons.org/library/report-details/34970
This project witnesses the importance of clear documentation of residents’ wishes, greater confidence of nursing staff and a willingness to act as an advocate for the resident.

**Oral Care Management for Children, Young People and their Families in the Palliative Care Setting**
https://www.fons.org/library/report-details/25826
This project raised awareness of oral care across three hospices. This, along with the development of knowledge and skills, improved record keeping and greater communication with families, has resulted in improvements in care.

**Establishing a Nurse-Led Respite Ward within a Hospice**
https://www.fons.org/library/report-details/18129
The team recognised that respite care is essential to provide support for carers and thus enable patients to stay at home. This project aimed to open a nurse led dedicated respite ward.
Raising the Profile of Preferred Priorities at the End of Life with Patients at St Nicholas’ Hospice
https://www.fons.org/library/report-details/16845
Advance care planning is a cornerstone of good palliative care. This project set out to establish patients’ preferred priorities of care within a hospice setting. The project explored commonality in themes between staff and patients’ responses and barriers to starting this process.

The Effectiveness of Spikenard Essential Oil in the Management of Agitation and Distress in End of Life Care
https://www.fons.org/library/report-details/72403
Projects and innovations don’t always go to plan or produce the results we hope for, but despite this, there can be benefits. In this case, while no patients consented to take part in the study so there is no formal evaluation data only anecdotal evidence, the benefits of undertaking the project have been the improved multidisciplinary team working and personal growth and development of the team.

The Assessment of Resilience and Vulnerability in Families
https://www.fons.org/library/report-details/6171
A project which considered assessment tools in bereavement to enable the Bereavement Support Team to identify those families at greater risk as they experience ongoing losses over time as their child’s health deteriorates.

Improving Food and Nutrition for Patients Receiving Hospice Care
https://www.fons.org/library/report-details/6124
A project to enhance palliative care for patients with nutritional issues and their carers. The conclusion of this work is a Process Map for professionals to begin to address assessment of nutritional needs. The work itself is available for other hospices and health care organisations to have some appreciation of the task to be accomplished.

The International Practice Development Journal: Practice development using video-reflexive ethnography: promoting safe space(s) towards the end of life in hospital by Aileen Collier
https://www.fons.org/library/journal/volume6-issue1/article3
At a very simple level, this paper explores the variety of impacts that watching videos of care interactions between practitioners and patients/families can have by revealing the ‘taken for granted’ and ‘habitual ways of being’ that can become unnoticed in everyday practice.

Silence about encounters with dying among healthcare professionals in a society that ‘de-taboo-ises’ death by Ellen Ramvi and Birgitta Haga Gripsrud
https://www.fons.org/library/journal/volume7-suppl/article9
On the one hand, Norwegian society at large is becoming more open about death and dying, but still when healthcare professionals encounter death at work, these experiences are not talked about. Why is this?

Facilitating person-centred after-death care: unearthing assumptions, tradition and values through practice development by Barbara Anderson
https://www.fons.org/library/journal/volume7-issue1/article6
The centre’s after death-care policy involved processes that were ‘antithetical to our shared vision for person-centred practices. Unquestioned, longstanding traditional approaches to after-death care needed to be questioned.’ This article raises interesting points and gives much food for thought.

Transforming end of life care using practice development: an arts-informed approach in residential aged care by Joan Yalden, Brendan McCormack, Margaret O’Connor and Sally Hardy
https://www.fons.org/library/journal/volume3-issue2/article2
Arts-informed approaches helped release staff creativity in developing new ways to identify ‘interventions to enhance comfort, dignity and supportive relationships between the dying person, their loved ones and others within the residential facility in the final days or hours of life’ (p 5). The result was a chest of drawers – a surprisingly simple artefact to support and embed the new ways of working.

A reflection on nurse advocacy for the person experiencing dementia whilst an in-patient in the general and acute sector by Mo Boersma
https://www.fons.org/library/journal/volume2-issue1/article1
This paper explores the role of one community mental health nurse acting as an advocate for the person experiencing dementia whilst an in-patient in the general and acute sector.

Current Projects:
https://www.fons.org/programmes/patients-first/projects
Chestnut Tree House’s Hard to Reach Families Project
The first focus of the project is to ensure ‘hard to reach families’ are able to access hospice services specific to their needs, and to better engage with these families by raising awareness of children with life-shortening conditions and the services that Chestnut Tree House can offer.

Visit our website to find out more. www.fons.org