



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# Advance Care Planning in outpatient oncology care amidst COVID-19: a best practice implementation project

Felix Mühlensiepen

Center for Health Services Research

Brandenburg Medical School Theodor Fontane

"The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein."

M U N I  
M E D



The Czech Republic (Middle European)  
Centre for Evidence-Based Healthcare  
A JBI Centre of Excellence





Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# Introduction

- Advance care planning (ACP) is a process that supports people in understanding and sharing their personal values, life goals and preferences regarding future medical care<sup>1-3</sup>
- Goal of ACP: Ensure that people with serious and chronic conditions receive health care consistent with their values, goals, and preferences.
- ❖ Although there is plenty of evidence<sup>1-3</sup> & ACP is recognized in Germany, it is not yet widely implemented.

2 2020-1-DE01-KA203-005669

MUNI  
MED



The Czech Republic (Middle European)  
Centre for Evidence-Based Healthcare  
A JBI Centre of Excellence





Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# Aims & Objective

- The aim of this project is to introduce advance care planning into daily working routines of outpatient oncology staff during COVID-19 pandemic.



3 2020-1-DE01-KA203-005669

MUNI  
MED



The Czech Republic (Middle European)  
Centre for Evidence-Based Healthcare  
A JBI Centre of Excellence





Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# Study Phases

- Phase 1 – Baseline Audit
- Phase 2 – Strategies for Getting Research into Practice (GRiP)
- Phase 3 – Follow-up audit(s)

4 2020-1-DE01-KA203-005669

**MUNI**  
**MED**



The Czech Republic (Middle European)  
Centre for Evidence-Based Healthcare  
A JBI Centre of Excellence





Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# Study Phases

- Phase 1 – Baseline Audit
- Phase 2 – Strategies for Getting Research into Practice (GRiP)
- Phase 3 – Follow-up audit(s)

5 2020-1-DE01-KA203-005669

MUNI  
MED



The Czech Republic (Middle European)  
Centre for Evidence-Based Healthcare  
A JBI Centre of Excellence





Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# Audit Criteria I

#	Criteria
1	Healthcare professionals receive appropriate education and training.
2	Discussions with patients are initiated as early as possible.
3	Organizational support is provided to facilitate ACP conversations.
4	Healthcare professionals routinely undertake ACP conversations with patients.
5	Healthcare professionals use structured communication tools rather than using an ad-hoc approaches.
6	When working with diverse groups, interventions are appropriate to setting and context.
7	ACP contains an oral discussion component.
8	ACP contains an advance care plan (written document).



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# Baseline Audit

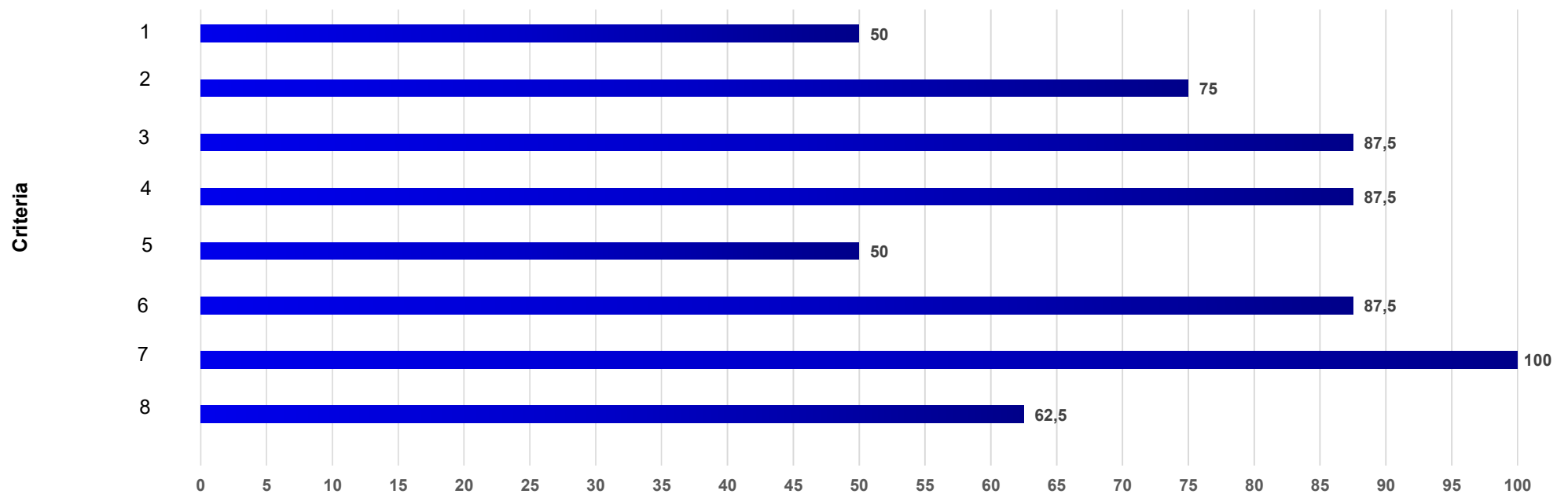
Phase	Activity	Date	Characteristics
Stakeholder engagement & Teambuilding	Workshop (Kickoff)	26.04.2021	Participants: 10
Baseline Audit	Interview 1	04.05.2021	Social Worker
	Interview 2	07.05.2021	Head of Department
	Interview 3	12.02.2021	Psycho-oncologist
	Supervision	21.05.2021	Stakeholder: ACP expert
	Interview 4	26.05.2021	Social Worker
	Interview 5	26.05.2021	Hospital Counsellor
	Interview 6	28.05.2021	Hospital Counsellor 2
	Interview 7	21.06.2021	Nurse
	Interview 8	21.06.2021	Nurse
	Workshop (Results)	28.06.2021	Participants: 8
GRiP	Training	16.08.2021	Participants: 12
Follow-audit	Interview: status quo	05.10.2021	Social Worker
	12/2021: Decision to change the audit method (12/2021) 03.01.-28.02.2022: Questionnaire based follow-up (n=8)		

7



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# Baseline Audit



8 2020-1-DE01-KA203-005669

MUNI  
MED



The Czech Republic (Middle European)  
Centre for Evidence-Based Healthcare  
A JBI Centre of Excellence







Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

## Baseline Audit

- *"At the clinic, we do not have any written concept... at least nothing, I know about. However, it still works. (Psycho-oncologist, 12.05.2021, Baseline)*
- *"Everybody does their own."* (Nurse, 29.06.2021, Baseline)



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# Study Phases

- Phase 1 – Baseline Audit
- **Phase 2 – Strategies for Getting Research into Practice (GRiP)**
- Phase 3 – Follow-up audit(s)

10 2020-1-DE01-KA203-005669

MUNI  
MED



The Czech Republic (Middle European)  
Centre for Evidence-Based Healthcare  
A JBI Centre of Excellence





Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# GRiP

Barrier	Strategy	Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Differing perceptions of ACP among HCP due to varying levels of ACP-training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education strategy to increase knowledge on ACP</li> <li>Monitoring and evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation of ACP expert of German Society of Palliative care</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Absence of appropriate communication tools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision and discussion of validated ACP tools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop with ACP expert of German Society of Palliative care</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of a common approach to ACP and defined responsibilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Query on task and responsibility distribution in current ACP practice.</li> <li>Discuss ACP and distribute responsibilities</li> <li>Development of a flowchart to map the ACP process internally</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of a questionnaire</li> <li>(Internal) Discussions on ACP practice, tasks and responsibilities during team-meetings</li> </ul>

11 2020-1-DE01-KA203-005669



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# GRiP

Phase	Activity	Date	Characteristics
<b>Stakeholder engagement &amp; Teambuilding</b>	Workshop (Kickoff)	26.04.2021	Participants: 10
<b>Baseline Audit</b>	Interview 1	04.05.2021	Social Worker
	Interview 2	07.05.2021	Head of Department
	Interview 3	12.02.2021	Psycho-oncologist
	Supervision	21.05.2021	Stakeholder: ACP expert
	Interview 4	26.05.2021	Social Worker
	Interview 5	26.05.2021	Hospital Counsellor
	Interview 6	28.05.2021	Hospital Counsellor 2
	Interview 7	21.06.2021	Nurse
	Interview 8	21.06.2021	Nurse
	Workshop (Results)	28.06.2021	Participants: 8
<b>GRiP</b>	Training	16.08.2021	Participants: 12
<b>Follow-audit</b>	Interview: status quo	05.10.2021	Social Worker
	12/2021: Decision to change the audit method (12/2021)		
	03.01.-28.02.2022: Questionnaire based follow-up (n=8)		

12

# GRiP

- ACP-Training with  
Prof. Henrikje Stanze



- *"We are currently still doing it intuitively or reactively. We don't have a concept yet. And that's where I'm starting to think now."  
(Head of department, 16.08.2021, GRiP)*



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

## And then? Covid-19!

*“Hello Mr. Mühlensiepen,*

*At the moment the situation here is very tense so that I either have no time to call or I don't know under which number you can reach me. I am always busy somewhere else.*

*Best, Nurse X”*



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# Study Phases

- Phase 1 – Baseline Audit
- Phase 2 – Strategies for Getting Research into Practice (GRiP)
- **Phase 3 – Follow-up audit(s)**

15 2020-1-DE01-KA203-005669

MUNI  
MED



The Czech Republic (Middle European)  
Centre for Evidence-Based Healthcare  
A JBI Centre of Excellence





Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# Follow-up audit

Phase	Activity	Date	Characteristics
<b>Stakeholder engagement &amp; Teambuilding</b>	Workshop (Kickoff)	26.04.2021	Participants: 10
<b>Baseline Audit</b>	Interview 1	04.05.2021	Social Worker
	Interview 2	07.05.2021	Head of Department
	Interview 3	12.02.2021	Psycho-oncologist
	Supervision	21.05.2021	Stakeholder: ACP expert
	Interview 4	26.05.2021	Social Worker
	Interview 5	26.05.2021	Hospital Counsellor
	Interview 6	28.05.2021	Hospital Counsellor 2
	Interview 7	21.06.2021	Nurse
	Interview 8	21.06.2021	Nurse
	Workshop (Results)	28.06.2021	Participants: 8
<b>GRiP</b>	Training	16.08.2021	Participants: 12
<b>Follow-audit</b>	Interview: status quo	05.10.2021	Social Worker
	12/2021: Decision to change the audit method (12/2021)		
	03.01.-28.02.2022: Questionnaire based follow-up (n=8)		

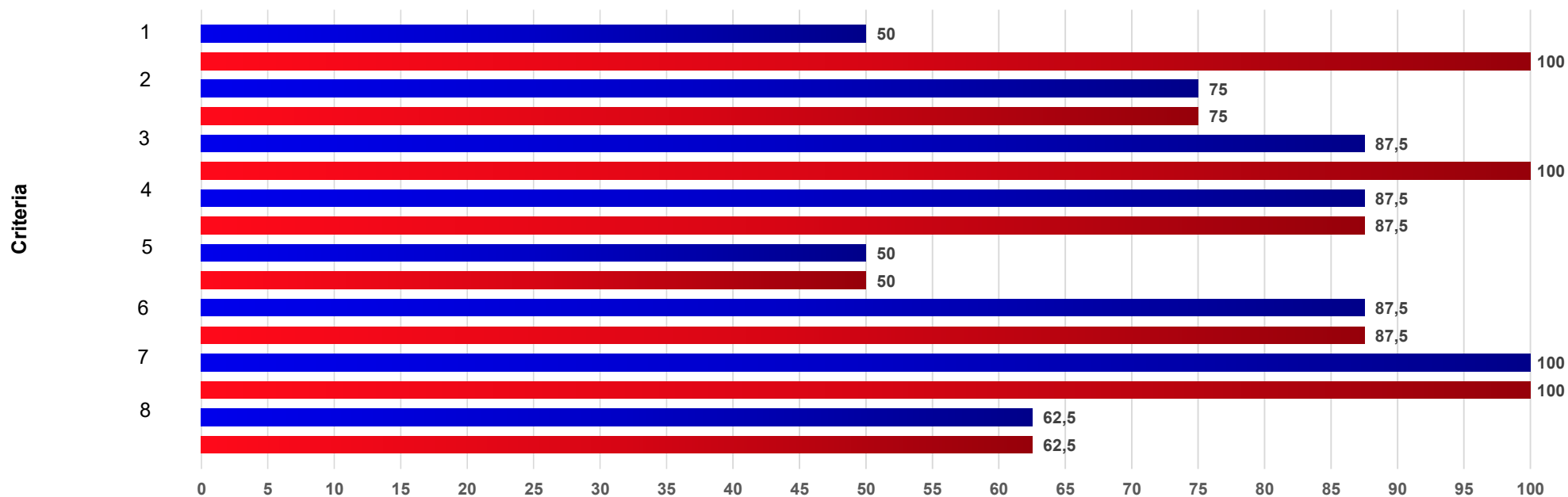
16





Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# Follow-up audit



17

MUNI  
MED



The Czech Republic (Middle European)  
Centre for Evidence-Based Healthcare  
A JBI Centre of Excellence





Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

#	Criteria
1	Healthcare professionals receive appropriate education and training.
2	Discussions with patients are initiated as early as possible.
3	Organizational support is provided to facilitate ACP conversations.
4	Healthcare professionals routinely undertake ACP conversations with patients
5	Healthcare professionals use structured communication tools rather than using an ad-hoc approaches.
6	When working with diverse groups, interventions are appropriate to setting and context
7	ACP contains an oral discussion component.
8	ACP contains an advance care plan (written document).

18



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

## Discussion

- Covid-19 impedes best practice change process in clinical practice and especially best practice implementation.
- Health care workers are forced to maintain the standard of care under high stress<sup>4</sup>, which leaves no time for reflection and reorientation of their own practice.



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# Thank you!

Organizers & Participants of EICP  
ERASMUS+  
Team MHB (Special thanks to Robert!)  
Rüdersdorf Study Group  
Henrikje Stanze  
Immanuel Klinik Rüdersdorf  
Working Group Psychooncology / Palliative Care  
Center for Health Services Research

Let's stay in contact

20

MUNI  
MED



The Czech Republic (Middle European)  
Centre for Evidence-Based Healthcare  
A JBI Centre of Excellence



Gustav Klimt, Tod und Leben, 1910/15 © Leopold Museum, Wien, Inv. 630

Dr. Felix Mühlensiepen, MPH  
[felix.muehlensiepen@mhb-fontane.de](mailto:felix.muehlensiepen@mhb-fontane.de)

Center for Health Services Research  
Brandenburg Medical School  
Theodor Fontane





Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# References

- 1. Hopkins SA, Bentley A, Phillips V, Barclay S. Advance care plans and hospitalized frail older adults: A systematic review. *BMJ Support Palliat Care*. 2020; 10(2): 164-74.
- 2. Starr LT, Ulrich CM, Corey KL, Meghani SH. Associations among end-of-life discussions, health-care utilization, and costs in persons with advanced cancer: A systematic review. *Am J Hosp Palliat Care*. 2019; 36(10): 913-26.
- 3. Kuusisto A, Santavirta J, Saranto K, Korhonen P, Haavisto E. Advance care planning for patients with cancer in palliative care: A scoping review from a professional perspective. *J Clin Nurs*. 2020; 29(13/14): 2069-82
- 4. May S, Stahlhut K, Allsop M, Heinze M, Mühlensiepen F. ‘...you just put up with it for the sake of humanity.’: an exploratory qualitative study on causes of stress in palliative care nursing during the COVID-19 pandemic in Germany. 2021;11(12):e051550.